Hafa Adai!

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Korean language school opens in San Antonio. PAGE 2
Workers plan to hold rally during Congressional visit. PAGE 5

POLL RESULTS

At this point, have you already chosen which gubernatorial candidate to vote for in the November elections?

Yes-**76**

No-**46**

Sunday, June 07, 2009

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 5

As of June 5, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Bodies Found

Searchers found two passengers' bodies and a briefcase containing an Air France Flight 447 ticket in the Atlantic Ocean near where the jetliner is believed to have crashed, a Brazil military official said Saturday.

World...Page 17

AFTER DISCOVERY OF FORGED FDA CERTIFICATION

Legislature to conduct formal inquiry on $22M dialysis center

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) yesterday said a formal legislative inquiry will be conducted on the new dialysis center which ballooned to a $22-million project from the original price of $5 million, especially in light of a recent discovery that the Food and Drug Administration certification for the new facility's reverse osmosis water system was forged.

Palacios

"We want to get to the bottom of this. It's unacceptable that we spent $22 million on this project which started only as $5 million and three years after it's completed, it still can't be used for its original

See LEGISLATURE on Page 4

DPH *ask lawmakers for help in* $11M *budget discrepancy*

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan, left, addresses lawmakers as Esther Muna of the Department of Public Health's finance office looks on at the DPH budget hearing held by the House Ways and Means Committee on Friday on Capital Hill.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health proposes a $45 million budget for Fiscal Year 2010, but the Fitial administration only offered a $34 million appropriation, an $11 million difference that could spell a disaster to the

See DPH on Page 4

CHC *bills patients* $33.7M *but had collected only* $16M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan said the Commonwealth Health Center billed patients and other clients $33.7 million for hospital services ren-

See CHC on Page 4

Military build-up seen to open market for local agri products

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The impending U.S. military buildup in Guam will open up lucrative markets for locally grown agricultural products and meat from the CNMI, according to Secretary Ignacio T. Dela Cruz of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

In a speech delivered at the 28th Annual Saipan Agricultural Fair last Saturday, Dela Cruz said the military buildup will refurbish the government slaughterhouse to the stan-

See MILITARY on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Children marvel at the finest bananas on display at the 28th Saipan Agricultural Fair in Susupe on Saturday. Besides showcasing the finest produce and animals, the agricultural fair also recognizes the hard work and resiliency of Saipan's farmers and ranchers.

Local

Korean language school opens in San Antonio

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, third from left, joins Korean officials during the unveiling of the new Korean Language School building in San Antonio last Saturday.

It has been a long dream for many Koreans living on Saipan to have their permanent language school facility where their kids can learn how to speak their native tongue and embrace their culture.

Their dream was finally realized with the formal opening of the school building last Saturday night inside the Korean Community Center in San Antonio, where the former Neo Fashion factory was located.

Saipan and Guam-based Korean leaders as well as local government officials led the ribbon cutting and unveiling ceremonies during the grand opening of the school last Saturday.

Representing the CNMI government was Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Public School System commissioner Rita Sablan, and Coastal Resource Management director John Joyner, who all extended congratulatory message to the Korean community for the opening of the new center and school building.

The chairman of the Overseas Korean Foundation Young Kon Kwom and Peaceful and Democratic Unification advisor Shin Hyun Kook also graced the occasion.

From Guam were Consul General Chong-il Lee, Korean Association of Guam president Jeon Sang Dae, Korean language of Guam president Min Tae Hong, and Korean amateur Sports Association of Guam official Jo Jin Young.

Korean Association in the CNMI president Rhee Gyong Gu said basic education is a must in a just society because it will give every individual to decide what is right and wrong and it develops virtues to every citizen.

He said the community center has long been a dream project for them.

"Today our dream came true. From now [on], we will make good use of this center to achieve more dreams. We would like to teach the locals and other people [about] our language. We will continue to develop our traditional culture," he said.

Activities that would be part of the school's programs include teenage history class, music class for housewives, culture class, health class, and many more.

Janet King was glad for the opportunity given to her to speak at the ceremony and reaffirmed the importance of Korean culture and heritage in a land far from the mainland country.

King also emphasized the importance of partnership between the CNMI and Korea, grounded in mutual interest and respect.

"So I came here out of my respect to that part of my identity as a local girl who was born and raised in Tinian, a U.S. citizen, a Korean-American," she said.

Korean-CNMI relations she said rest on a strong foundation.

"There are deep economic and political ties in immigration, trade, education. And the CNMI is proud to have many men and women of Korean blood who have made our local community a more dynamic and a more successful place,' she said.

Senate legal counsel, 4 medical professionals get over-the-cap salary certification

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Assistant Attorney General Michael L. Ernest, along with a physician assistant, a nephrologist, a pediatric cardiologist and a nurse practitioner at the Commonwealth Health Center, received certification to receive a salary exceeding the cap of $50,000 a year.

The over-the-cap salary certifications were issued between May 19 and May 29.

The Salary Amendment Act of 1992 sets the salary ceiling for government employees at $50,000. However, the law gives the governor the authority to waive the ceiling, and submit a certification to the Legislature.

On May 19, acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos certified and granted approval to allow Ernest to receive an annual salary of $65,000. Ernest is a Senate legal counsel.

On the same day, Inos also certified and granted approval to allow Kent Ainslie, a physician assistant for nephrology at the Department of Public Health, to receive an annual salary of $70,000.

The following day, Inos certified and granted approval to allow Dr. Melville Singer, a pediatric cardiologist, to receive $1,000 per day for a five-day pediatric cardiology clinic.

On May 28, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial certified the $55,000 annual salary of Luise Q. Noisom, a nurse practitioner at DPH.

A day later, the governor also certified and granted approval to allow Jonathan Patrick Corrigan, a nephrologist, to receive an annual salary of $60,000.

Copies of the over-the-cap salary certification letters were also sent to the Civil Service Commission.

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Senate committee to hold public hearing on CDA debt relief bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs chaired by Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) will be conducting a public hearing on a bill that seeks to provide relief to borrowers of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) by prohibiting deficiency judgments.

Hofschneider

Senate Bill 16-50, introduced by Senate Vice Pres. Felix T. Mendiola (Cov-Rota), said that subjecting CDA borrowers to deficiency judgments is inequitable because both the borrowers and CDA assumed, at the time when the loans were made, that if there were to be a default on the loans, the foreclosure of the property would be sufficient to repay CDA.

Hofschneider issued a revised schedule for the public hearing on S.B. 16-50.

- June 9 (Tuesday), 6-8pm—Rota Court House
- June 18 (Thursday), 6-8pm—Tanapag Elementary School, Saipan

CDA executive director Manuel A. Sablan is asked to be present at the public hearing as witness.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit written testimony before the public hearing by dropping them off or faxing them to 664 8938. Oral testimony will be received during the public hearing.

Mendiola's bill said CDA may not collect a deficiency judgment in any legal proceedings related to or arising out of the collection of a loan issued by CDA where real property was given as security for the loan.

Grace period for parking fee

Hofschneider, at the same time, wrote to Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain Camacho to consider waiving the Saipan airport commuter terminal parking fee for those who only drop off or pick up passengers.

He said the parking fee will further burden the pockets of travelers from Tinian and Rota.

In a June 3 letter, Hofschneider said he is hopeful that a reasonable grace period for those dropping off or picking up passengers will be granted, and that only those who plan to park at the terminal for an extended stay will be charged a parking fee.

A new toll booth is being constructed at the entrance to the Saipan airport commuter terminal.

Other legislative meeting schedules

On June 12, the House Commerce and Tourism Committee chaired by Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan) will meet with officials of government agencies to discuss prostitution and illegal taxis in Garapan.

The meeting is at 1:30pm. in the House Chamber. Those requested to attend are officials from the Department of Public Safety, the Office of the Attorney General, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Department of Commerce, and the Division of Immigration.

The same House committee is also seeking comments on House Bill 16-248. The bill, introduced by Reyes, proposes to exempt businesses with annual gross revenue of less than $50,000 from paying gross revenue taxes. Comments may be sent to Reyes's office, faxed to 664-8838 or via e-mail at rep.jcreyes@gmail.com. For more information, contact Reyes's office at 664-8836.

The House Health, Education and Welfare Committee will also hold a meeting with the board of directors of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance on June 16 at 9am in the Speaker's conference room.

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'I Love My Dad' essay writing contest set

Writing is the best way to give tribute to your dad. This is what Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan believes in.

In connection with this, Fiesta Saipan launches the search for the "Best Dad on Saipan" promotion. To join, mothers with children age 0 to 11 must submit an essay answering the question: My kids love their dad because… and for children age 12 to 21 must submit an essay answering the question: I love my dad because…

Entries can be submitted trough email and sent it to oscar_yema@fiestasaipan.com, or by mail and send it to PO Box 501029 or hand carry the essay in an envelop and send it to the front desk of Fiesta Resort. All entries must have a subject heading of "I love my Dad because…"

The entry must also contain a picture of the father and contact information.

Deadline for the submission of entries will be on June 17, 2009 and afterwards finalist will be chosen. The entire finalist will be awarded by the one who nominated them with a plaque of recognition from Fiesta Saipan.

From the finalist the Top 10 Best Dad in Saipan will be given a trophy and a tribute during the Fathers Day celebration to be held on Fathers Day at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Saipan from 11pm to 2pm. The criteria for judging will solely be based on the essay submitted to Fiesta. Announcements will be made after the submission of entries.

If you believe your husband or your father deserves to be recognized as the Best Dad, pay tribute to him by writing an essay and tell us a story about your Dad. For inquires, you may Yema, events and outlets manager of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan at 234-7171 ext 1585. The best essay writer will get a brand new cell phone from IT&E and a cell phone as your gift to your Dad. ***(PR)***

MILITARY

From Page 1

dards of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Such standards, he said, will meet not only local needs but will supplement Guam's critical needs as well.

Dela Cruz assured to the farmers and ranchers the full support of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

"They are looking very closely with the DLNR and the Department of Commerce if these two agencies are providing sufficient and necessary assistance to our farmers and ranchers to take full advantage of this developing market," Dela Cruz noted.

He said DLNR has been very active and responsive to this promising development, assuring that the establishment of market outlets in Guam for local crops, fruits and vegetables will continue.

DLNR vowed to find ways to reduce the high cost of shipping to Guam and look for alternative but reliable means of transport.

Fitial and Inos joined other guests who delivered inspiring messages to the farmers and ranchers.

"We are here to celebrate the hard work of our local farmers and ranchers. In doing so, we also celebrate an important aspect of our local culture, as well as our rich agricultural history," Fitial said.

He said the farmers and ranchers not only provide fresh fruits and meat for the table but also teach the youth the value and rewards of agriculture as an industry and profession.

Saipan Agricultural Fair Association chairman Isidoro T. Cabrera said that with 28 years of tradition, the fair remains true to its mission of promoting agriculture and the island's lifestyle.

Cabrera thanked the efforts and dedication of the volunteers and support from the sponsors and the government for this annual event.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes also expressed full support to the farmers and ranchers for their hard work in bringing fresh and nutritious agricultural goods to the tables.

Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service's Ross Manglona said that with the rising prices, local farming practices have provided agricultural commodities and opportunities to the community.

Other speakers included Tony Benavente, representing the Mayor's Office; Saipan Municipal Council chair Antonia M. Tudela; Saipan Sabalu Market Association vice president Manny Borja; and Vice Speaker Joe Guerrero.

CHC

From Page 1

dered in Fiscal Year 2008, but collected only $16 million that year.

Untalan said this during the House Ways and Means Committee's budget hearing on the Department of Public Health on Friday.

"We only had about 50 percent collection rate, but we will provide (the committee) with our receivables report," Untalan said during the hearing.

In an interview, Untalan said whatever DPH collects from its patients go back to the general fund under a government fund approved accounting system.

"But if you use it as enterprise fund accounting system, then whatever we collect that's how much we can pay out," he said.

Untalan said government hospitals' normal collection rate is 60 percent.

DPH provides services to poor patients that do not qualify for Medicaid assistance or do not have health insurance. This is the Medical Indigent Assistance Program that is also unfunded, adding to DPH's receivables.

"That's a big portion of our receivables, what we call uncompensated care," Untalan added.

The government-owned CHC is the only hospital in the CNMI.

DPH

From Page 1

critical agency's operations especially in medical referrals and in hiring and retaining doctors, health officials told lawmakers on Friday.

"The $45 million is what we submitted, and this is what we need," acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Untalan and seven other key health officials met with the members of the House Ways and Means Committee chaired by Rep. Ray N. Yumul at a DPH budget hearing on Capital Hill Friday morning.

Yumul (R-Saipan) said it is also disturbing to note that the Office of Budget and Management gave instructions to DPH to leave blank or put zero in some accounts such as utilities and housing without discussing the overall budget structure with the department.

In an interview, Yumul said the $11 million difference between what DPH asked for and OMB's budget submission to the Legislature shows a "disconnect" between the two agencies.

Members of the legislative committee reiterated concerns that DPH, along with the Department of Public Safety and the Public School System, is a critical government agency that should be spared from major cuts in appropriations.

Yumul said DPS, during a budget hearing the previous week, also raised concern that it faces some $7.3 million budget cuts. DPS submitted a $14 million budget for FY 2010, but the Fitial administration's budget submission reflected only $6.7 million, said Yumul.

The House Ways and Means Committee has yet to hear PSS' budget concerns.

"Granted that these budgets are in line with Public Law 16-32, the difference is what we're trying to zero in. We want to know how much is the federal funds, how much is anticipated," Yumul added.

Untalan said another unanticipated cost is the recruitment of physicians. He said DPH has established a recruitment and retention program that would always be engaged in recruiting needed health professionals. DPH is to pay $25,000 to the recruitment agency for each prospect such as a physician who signs a two-year job contract with DPH.

DPH is also working on outsourcing the pharmacy management of the Commonwealth Health Center's inpatient pharmacy. Untalan said DPH is unable to compete with other healthcare institutions recruiting for inpatient pharmacists with the current salary.

Untalan said it is best to retain the housing allowances of medical personnel because this is one benefit that attracts physicians and nurses to work at CHC.

He told members of the legislative committee that besides physician posts, there are other "critical management positions" that need to be filled up, including a medical records administrator and clinical psychologist.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), during the hearing, said it is disheartening to know that DPH has been losing doctors and other medical professionals because of low salary.

He said DPH should also work with the Office of the Public Auditor and OMB in identifying the positions that should be exempted from the salary cap of $50,000 a year.

Illogical

The Fitial administration's proposed FY 2010 budget for DPH's Medical Referral Program alone was only $450,000, while DPH's proposal was $6 million.

"Where else would you slice the pie? But what I'm saying is that we have a program that's existing using that fund… By the end of this fiscal year, we'd be expending $6 million some million (for the medical referral program) so to say we are going to be funded for only $450,000 isn't logical," Untalan said.

DPH seeks to restore funding to the Medical Referral Program's FY 2009 annualized level of $2.6 million for transportation; $2.7 million for professional fees; and $766,000 for rental.

"We need to have more of a dialogue with OMB, to at least meet halfway… the big difference in medical referral, which is really underfunded to continue the same type of expenditure to 2010, if you take a look at that… Also (we ask for) restoration of the embedded austerity (fund)… we can't afford to do that in the health care environment… So we're requesting the committee to look at that," said Untalan.

At the hearing, Untalan said DPH is further upgrading its patient information management system and continues the automation of Medicaid's application, eligibility and renewal process to include service use and quality review.

"The final outcome would provide the Medicaid program to pursue the concept of offering capitated rates instead of the present fee for service to the local Medicaid providers combined with the assignment of Medicaid recipients in paneled groups to the on-island Medicaid providers," he said.

DPH is also outsourcing public health and hospital services to improve the delivery of service, reduce cost of operation, or eliminate duplicative service.

Drop in patients

Untalan said the hospital has seen a decrease in the number of patients coming to CHC, and this, he said, could be partly due to the more active participation of private clinics now that DPH has opened Medicaid to private health care providers.

From Oct. 1, 2007 to May 31, 2008, CHC's total patient visits stood at 54,000.

From Oct. 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009, the government hospital saw 37,000 total patient visits, said Untalan.

Besides Untalan, the other health officials present at the budget hearing were Ron Sablan, administrator of DPH's Medical Referral Office; Bureau of Environmental Health director John Tagabuel; Medicaid administrator Helen Sablan; John T. Flores; Human Resources' Marciana Igitol; DPH finance chief Esther Muna; and Community Guidance Center's Josephine Sablan.

Yumul said the House Ways and Means Committee predicts that the FY 2010 expenditure will exceed projected revenues.

"We will try to quantify that… and then try to identify where to cut. Right now, it's all about maintaining personnel and other operational requirements, but we haven't even begun to look at the benefits, the retirement contributions, utilities payments, fuel and other supplies," he said.

Acting Finance secretary Bob Schrack on Tuesday told the committee that the administration's proposed $150.5 million appropriation for FY 2010, after the required payments for bond obligations and others are deducted, remains.

But just the same, the committee wants a written confirmation of such from Finance.

LEGISLATURE

From Page 1

purpose, which is for a dialysis clinic," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since the project construction started, DPH had been asking for additional funding due to design changes, among other things.

"Now somebody dropped the bomb that the FDA certification for the water system was forged," Palacios added.

On Friday, at a budget hearing on the Department of Public Health's proposed Fiscal Year 2010 appropriation, acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan told the House Ways and Means Committee that the FDA certification for the new facility's reverse osmosis water system was "forged" by an individual previously connected with the U.S.-based Severn Trent.

Severn Trent supplied the reverse osmosis water system unit to Saipan Ice, which was one of the subcontractors of AIC Marianas, the main contractor for the construction of the new dialysis building in Garapan.

Saipan Ice sales supervisor Lito Dizon and AIC Marianas project engineer Ding Lacap separately told *Saipan Tribune* earlier that they're not aware of the forgery and that nobody had told them about the issues that just came about.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said he will ask for a formal legislative inquiry on the new dialysis center, whose long delayed opening has been reset for August 2009.

Yumul, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, said he will discuss today with Palacios how to best approach the issue involving the dialysis center.

"A formal inquiry is for sure," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

On Friday, he said "the bottom line is that taxpayers' money is involved; it needs to be accounted for."

Rep. David Apatang, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, as well as the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee, yesterday said he leaves it up to Yumul on how to proceed with the issue at this time.

Apatang (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan), chair of the House HEW Committee, told Untalan and other DPH officials on Friday that they will wait for their official response on the committee's questions to a list of inquiries involving the operation and services of the department. The committee gave DPH until June 18 to respond.

Yumul said he may also ask the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chaired by Rep. Rosemond Santos (R-Saipan) to conduct an oversight hearing on the project.

During Friday's budget hearing, Yumul asked DPH whether it needs additional funding for the new dialysis center, at which point Untalan shared the recent discovery of the FDA certification of the center's water system.

DPH said CHC has only 14 dialysis stations for about 100 dialysis patients, while the new facility—once operational—can accommodate up to 24 stations.

"The whole idea is to move all the dialysis stations to the new building," Untalan said.

Workers plan to hold rally during Congressional visit

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nonresident workers will be spearheading a rally when members of the U.S. Congress visit Saipan in August for a fact-finding mission on the impending federalization of the Commonwealth.

This was agreed upon during a meeting at the Minachom Atdao last Friday by members of the United Workers Movement, who vowed to draw the support not only of all foreign workers but members of the local work force as well.

UWM leader Rabby Syed said they will continue to establish a good line of communication with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

"We are now readying a letter to the governor urging him not to delay the implementation of the federalization program," Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

The group will be conducting sweeping campaigns in several areas on Saipan such as Kagman, Chalan Kanoa, and Garapan to ask all workers—both nonresidents and residents to support them.

Over a hundred members of UWM including members of the Pilipino Contract Workers Association headed by Ronnie Doca attended last Friday's meeting.

Rep. Tina Sablan reiterated her full support to the workers giving them hope in their quest for the U.S. government to grant them improved status.

Syed

A message from U.S.-based human rights activist Wendy Doromal was also read, where she expressed support for a humane and just worker program not only in the CNMI but also in the U.S. mainland.

Doromal discussed two major points including no further delay of implementation of the federalization program and that the U.S. Department of Immigration to immediately submit a report to Congress the status of longterm guest workers.

Doromal gave them hope that those who have been staying in the CNMI for five or more years will finally be given green cards.

She also lauded the unity, hard work, and commitment of the workers in doing the final push.

"We would reach out to local government. We need to keep on asking their support. This is a difficult time for us because there are no regulations yet from [the Department of] Homeland Security but we still have our hopes. We are here to come up with ideas to make our efforts strong," Syed told the workers.

The workers also thanked CNMI Rep. to the U.S. Congress Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan for his no-delay stand.

Lawyer Steve Woodruff said their present situation is close to a tipping point.

"We are on the threshold of change. We are on the threshold of victory. It is no doubt that we are 100 percent united and so we must keep that unity intact," he said.

The workers he said have done many first such as the Unity March and the May Day rally last year, and the three-day peaceful assembly last month.

Woodruff urged the workers not to slow down so that it would not be difficult to start again.

"We are lucky because we are in a middle of a gubernatorial election campaign. All the people know that all leaders have failed. We will not be supporting anyone but we will challenge them to answer questions and test their leadership," he said.

Woodruff said there is a need to break the "divisive system in the Department of Labor where they separate the alien workers from the local workers."

"We need to have a real grassroots campaign. We need to build up support from the local community and the CNMI leadership," he said.

He stressed the need for an improved local economy and that everybody should be given work.

"We will help rebuild a strong economy with a united working sector. This is our island, our home, our future," he said.

Laser training at FDM

The Emergency Management Office would be conducting HSB-25 laser training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla tomorrow, June 9, from 11am to 5pm.

Due to this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is strongly advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

EMO said the cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

For more information, contact the Emergency Management Office, Operation section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF single side band radio on 52050. or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

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Ladera Int'l School graduates 30

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Ladera International School of Saipan promoted last Friday 30 students ranging from kindergarten to eighth grade during its third commencement exercises at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Wayne Pangelinan, LISS owners' representative and school director, conferred diplomas to 10 kindergarteners, 13 sixth graders, and seven middle schoolers during the ceremony graced by over a hundred of the graduates' family and friends.

LISS named Christina Carulla as this year's top graduate among the eighth graders after receiving the first honor award, while Rose Marie Lizama and Jane Rhee were named recipients of the second and third best honors, respectively.

Carulla, in her message, admitted that though she learned a lot from her mentors, she knows that they are not even halfway done with their education.

"We are just going to continue this road of learning…and I thank everyone—teachers and classmates—for making this year a success," she said.

First honor in the sixth grade went to Iris Yu, who deeply honored the sacrifices and guidance of her teachers all throughout the two years she attended LISS.

Named recipients of the second and third honors were Junseo Park and Irvin Jayson Jurado.

Meanwhile, kindergartener Yumin Ahn was bestowed the highest academic honor in her class.

She was named this year's first honor, along with Juan Edward Guerrero and Alan Mikhail Matutino who were second and third honors, respectively.

After saying her big thank you to her parents and teachers, Yumin Ahn said she is now ready to learn more and excited for her first grade.

The promotions ceremony was also highlighted by video presentations by the graduates and a special tribute to the school's faculty.

LISS also treated graduates, families, and guests to a special dinner and dance intermissions after the ceremony.

Pangelinan, for his part, lauded the commitment of LISS founders—Yong Nam Park and Sung Yun Kim. He also recognized the school's board of directors that have taken a role that will help guide and lead LISS to greater heights: Anna Leah Castillon, Rosemishel Pacheco, Mustafa Shakir, and Susan Satur.

Pangelinan, in his message to the graduates, only had one wish for them: "I hope you never give up on your education. It maybe hard and it will get harder…but the world is waiting for you to find your place as young leaders, politicians, doctors, nurses, accountants, pilots, businessmen, and women."

Pangelinan added that the education they provide at LISS is only a part of the students' success.

"We firmly believe that character in line with your education will ultimately be beneficial as you grow in life," he said, commending the parents and guardians for continuously giving their trust and confidence to LISS.

MONETH G. DEPOSA
Ladera International School of Saipan director Wayne Pangelinan, standing right, poses with the school's outstanding students during Friday night's third commencement exercises at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Rep. Torres renews 'employment settlement claims' request to NMC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) has renewed his request for Northern Marianas College to provide him documentations on the employment settlement claims recorded by the institution.

This after the same request was junked by NMC president Carmen Fernandez, citing the confidentiality of personnel records and information that are exempted from any open government act.

Torres, in his letter to Fernandez on Wednesday, clarified that his earlier request for such information does not include any personal information of any employee but employment settlements with just some specific details such as the nature of the claim, amount agreed and paid to the party, as well as the date these claims were settled by the college.

The lawmaker also wants to know the funding source used by the college in paying for the said settlements which may come from appropriation or tuition fees of students.

"My requests do not include personal or private information such as an employee's birth date, residence, marital status, or bank account numbers. My requests are for information regarding NMC employment claims against NMC, how much NMC paid to settle these claims, where did NMC get the money to pay the settlements, and when were the settlements executed. There is no request for personal information of any employee," Torres told Fernandez, adding that an employment complaint stems from a dispute regarding an employment contract which is a public record.

Torres said a such claim against NMC arises out of an employment contract dispute which claim should not be considered personal information.

Moreover, he said NMC is a public institution that receives public funds and thus all expenditures of public funds are fundamentally considered public records.

"There is no privacy right in the use of public funds and NMC must be accountable for how it spends public funds. If NMC uses public funds to settle a dispute, the settlement is clearly a public record. There is no OGA exemption for settlement agreements," he said.

Torres said even if the requested settlement agreements contain personal information, the college is free to redact any and all these information and still comply with his OGA request.

"If NMC has nothing to hide, why is it willing to go through so much trouble and so much wasted public funds to keep these employment settlements from disclosure?" Torres told the president, citing the previous court battles on the same disclosure of public records.

When contacted by *Saipan Tribune* Friday, Fernandez was preparing a response to Torres.

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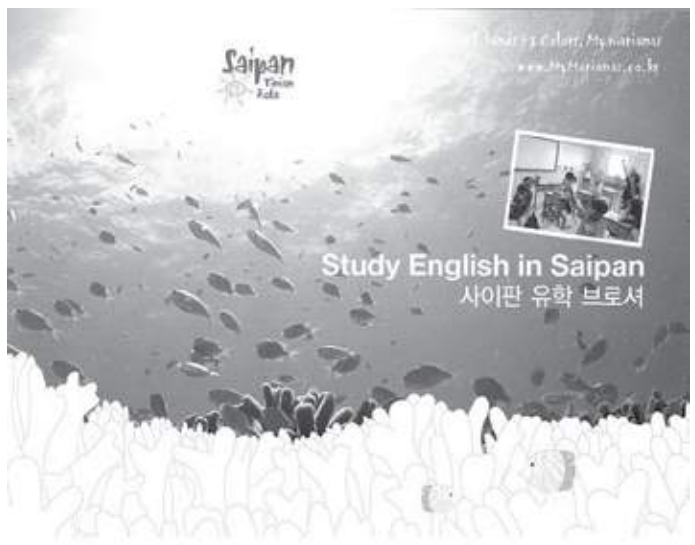
MVA: 'Study Abroad in Saipan' is safe and economical

The proximity, safety, and good schools of the CNMI make it an ideal overseas study destination. These features were touted by Marianas Visitors Authority at the Early Study Abroad and English Camp Fair held recently in Seoul, Korea.

"Saipan is a close and safe U.S. destination for Koreans and other Asians to send their children for study abroad," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "It's easy for parents to visit their children while they receive a quality, U.S. curriculum-based education in a safe environment. It's an excellent and economical choice."

MVA marketed their "Study Abroad in Saipan" campaign to nearly 10,000 participants during the fair, held at the Pacific Hall in COEX in Seoul, Korea on May 23-24, 2009. A large number of participants were parents. A representative from Ladera International School, Costa World Tour (a travel agent selling English Camp products), and World Ace (a study abroad agency) also helped to provide information on Saipan's private schools and English camps to those who visited the MVA booth.

According to an on-site survey, most parents who want to send their children to Saipan to study were interested in 1) programs for young children in which a parent accompanies the child, or 2) finishing the high school in Saipan and moving on to the U.S. continent for college level education.



MVA cites three advantages to study abroad programs and English camps in Saipan:

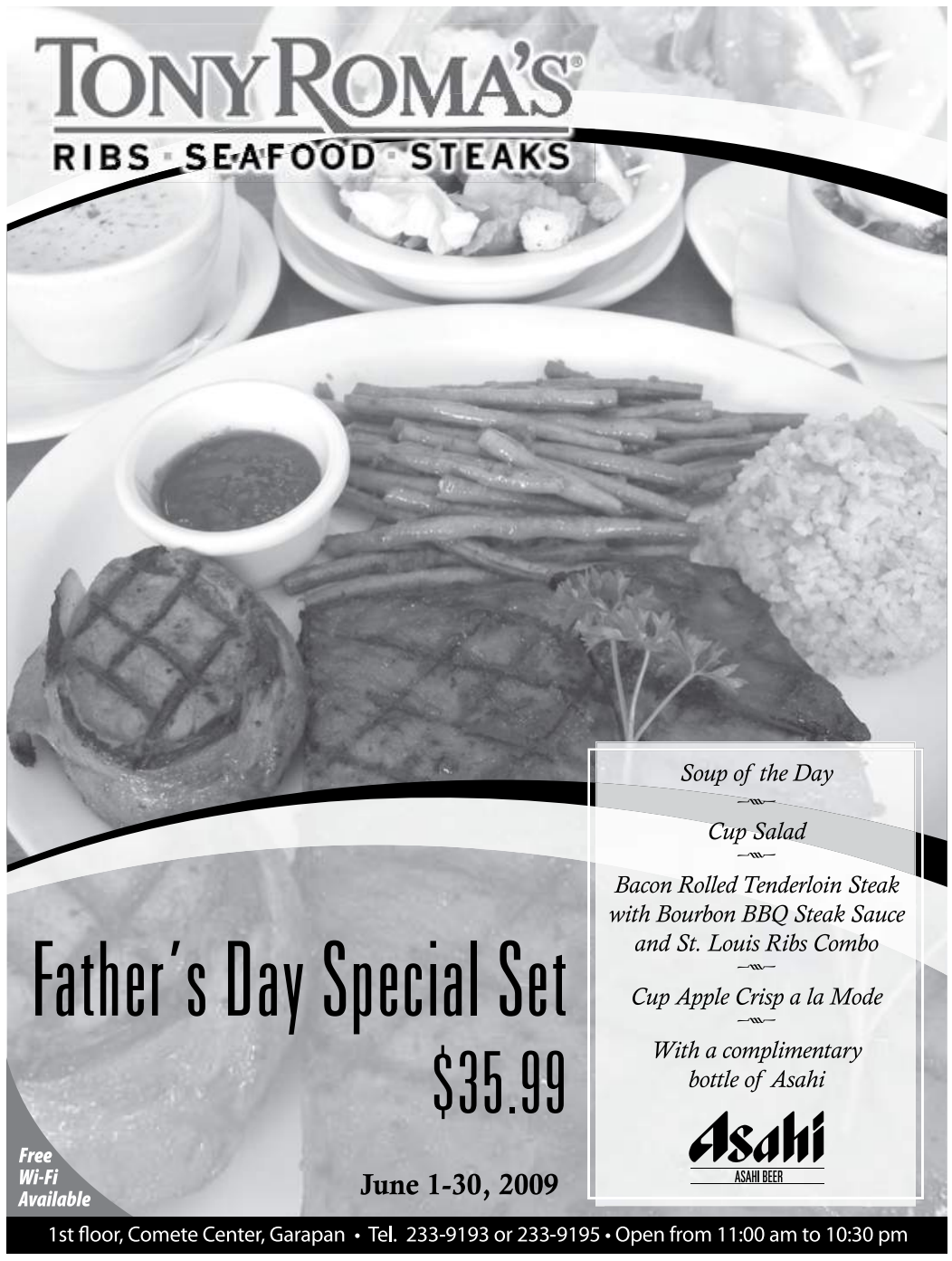
■ **Proximity to Korea and safety**—For the parents who are sending away minor children, Saipan's proximity to Korea and the low crime rate are the number one advantages;

■ **U.S. curriculum and low tuition cost**—Saipan is a U.S. commonwealth with teachers and school curriculum from the U.S. Also, the living cost and the tuition are low compared to other education destinations. Students can easily move on to the schools and colleges in the continental U.S. from Saipan; and

■ **English camps during the vacation**—Before the parents decide to send their children abroad, they can easily visit Saipan during the holidays or vacation time to get a glimpse of the educational opportunities on the island. Short English camps, usually 5-6 days, along with the family holiday spent on this tropical island will offer them a taste of the U.S. education and housing arrangements available.

Eight schools were included in MVA's campaign: Eucon International School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Grace Christian Academy, Saipan International School, Northern Marianas College, Seventh Day Adventist School, Northern Marianas Academy, and Ladera International School.

Other countries participating in the fair were Australia, Canada, China, India, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, U.K., U.S.A. and Korea. Fair participants indicated they were most interested in U.S. programs (24 percent). ***(PR)***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PIEC delegates to focus on climate change

Clean energy and climate change will be the focus of discussions during the 26th Pacific Islands Environment Conference to be held from June 22 to 25 at the Saipan World Resort.

The theme for the three-day event is "Climate of Change: Energizing a Sustainable Future for Pacific Islands" and the conference is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the governments of the CNMI, Guam, and American Samoa.

The event is expected to draw officials from various government agencies across the region as well as environment leaders from the U.S. mainland.

The conference is designed to provide a forum for leaders throughout the Pacific Basin through resource speakers and interactive roundtable sessions.

Included in the agenda will be the current energy status in the CNMI and some of the renewable and energy conservation solutions for the commonwealth and options for the future during the first day of a series of workshops.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will deliver his welcome address on the second day of the conference on June 23 before the message of keynote speaker Gil Masters from Stanford University.

A panel of environment experts will lead a forum on the perspectives from the standpoint of national, regional and local levels in confronting climate change in the Pacific.

Others in the list of topics include providing safe water and wastewater services in the Pacific Islands, environmental education for schools and the youth, water research in the pacific, the Micronesian Challenge and Sustainable Conservation Financing, recycling and new solid waste management technologies, science for effective management through identification of watershed effects in coral reef ecosystems and other issues. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Korean Cultural Center offers lessons

The Korean Cultural Center has started offering English-speaking people Korean language school programs.

The curriculum consists of five courses—Basic Korean Language, Employee's Korean Language, Traveler's Korean Language, Korean as Second Language 1, KSL 2.

The Korean Cultural Center said that language is the core of every culture.

The Korean Cultural Center will be giving away for free some of the lessons' electronic files. ***(PR)***

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FDIC deposit insurance temporarily increased from $100,000 to $250,000 per depositor through December 31, 2013.
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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 8, 1999

Faisao sets condition for compromise

Stung by ongoing debate on the street naming project by the Office of the Saipan Mayor, Rep. Melvin Faisao vowed yesterday to work toward a compromise to bridge opposing views on condition that the proposal from the Carolinian community must first be given a "fair" deal. He expressed hope for the immediate resolution to the differences which, according to legislators, have threatened to drag further the 10-year project and divide the local community. Faisao has accused some officials of discrimination over apparent snub on the list of recommendations prepared by the Carolinian Affairs Office which have not been included in the proposed street names approved by a commission created by the municipal government.

Anti-pornography bill revived

Alarmed by numerous complaints against some shops in the tourist district of Garapan openly trading pornographic materials, Rep. Malua T. Peter is trying to resurrect a three-year old legislative proposal that will impose stiffer penalties on violators. She said the measure is very critical now in view of potential harmful effects of these "offensive" materials to minors and the increasing incidents of sex crimes on the island, including child molestation and rape. "It's the responsibility of the government to ensure that we have these restrictions in place and implement rules and regulations," Peter said in an interview.

July 8, 2002

Burglars break into Legislature

Burglars with somewhat unorthodox motives broke into the Legislature building over the weekend, taking off not so much with valuables but a laptop, a computer battery and some important documents. The missing items were mostly from the office of Senate Minority Leader Pete P. Reyes but an inspection showed that offices of at least six other offices in the building had door handles that bore marks of attempts at being forced open. These were the offices of House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider, Senate President Paul A. Manglona, House Floor Leader Jesus T. Attao, Reps. Stanley T. Torres, Frank DLG. Aldan and Andrew Salas. The door to the office of Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano was okay but the exit door was unlocked.

Chata'an knocked Rota down

Typhoon Chata'an unleashed its fury Friday when it passed by the Northern Marianas, leaving Rota heavily devastated-fallen debris obstructed the roads, most of the crops were destroyed, and the island was in total blackout. On Saipan, the strong winds and heavy rains also prompted the evacuation of more than 200 individuals in different evacuation centers designated by the Emergency Management Office. Chata'an caused a power pole to fall to the ground near the Rota Commonwealth Health Center, as the typhoon damaged a major water line connecting the Alesna Cave Spring to the Ka'an reservoir. The water lines supply services to Sinapalo II and Songsong Village, which are among the populated villages on the island.

July 8, 2003

Minority senators call on Dela Cruz to step down now

Senate minority members are willing to reinstate the regular order of business at the upper house if convicted Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz resigns immediately. The embattled Tinian senator was expected to tender his resignation letter yesterday but the Office of the Senate President confirmed late yesterday afternoon that no such letter has been submitted as of press time. Senate President Paul A. Manglona said yesterday morning that he was still awaiting Dela Cruz's resignation letter. Minority leader Sen. Pete P. Reyes said that Dela Cruz's swift exit is necessary for the Senate to restore its credibility.

NMI to lift SARS ban in two weeks

Public Health Secretary James Hofschneider reportedly advised the Babauta administration to lift the travel restriction for CNMI-bound visitors from China and Taiwan by July 11 and 19, respectively. Press Secretary Peter A. Callaghan said Hofschneider made the recommendation to Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente during a Cabinet meeting yesterday. Callaghan said the administration would most likely follow Hofschneider's recommendation. The travel ban was earlier imposed in the wake of the SARS scare that shut down virtually all ports across the globe.

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STUDENTS FIRST!

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

D-Day plus 65

Early on in the Normandy invasion, time was denominated day by agonizing day as the Americans and British and their allies pushed into France, fighting every step of the way: D-Day plus one, D-Day plus two . ... advancing inch by inch, it seemed. Now it's counted in years—65 of them as of Saturday, a full working lifetime for anyone born around June 6, 1944.

For the great majority of these Americans, as they near Social Security age, life has been pretty good in a lot of ways. Their parents, who served and survived, came home to the GI Bill and (with the inevitable downturns now and then) a surging economy. America started making cars again, and refrigerators, and then here came television. Incomes rose, homes were built by the millions and, for those who weren't faring so well, government was playing an ever-larger role as backstop, though never on the scale of war-devastated countries overseas.

In time the federal government became, too, an enforcer of equality, bringing a greater measure of justice and equality to longtime victims of racial discrimination, as well as more benefits of the postwar boom and the modern American economy.

The country incurred an enormous financial debt in World War II, the sort of thing that would supposedly be visited on generations to come. But in this case, Americans got out from under it rather quickly while wisely taking on more debt with the Marshall Plan to aid Europe.

One great debt remains, however, and it is harder—perhaps impossible—to repay. It is owed to the hundreds of thousands of Americans (and their allies) for whom D-Day, or some day like it in Europe or North Africa or the Pacific, was the last day of their lives—lives that usually ended with so few years on them: 17, 19, 22, 30. Every year when The Washington Post fails to mark D-Day on its editorial page, we hear complaints from a few of our readers. Too few, really—people who still know how terrible was the loss for many Americans and how much it meant for all of us who live. The debt is still owed, payable only in the dwindling currency of remembrance.

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After Tiananmen, China wedded force with freedom

By JOHN POMFRET
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WASHINGTON—On June 14, 1989, I was in the Associated Press bureau in Beijing. I had just filed a story about the reopening of the U.S. Embassy in China's capital. As the sun streamed through the office's grubby windows, the phone rang.

"This is the police in charge of resident foreigners in China," a male voice on the other end announced. "Are you Pan Aiwen?" He was using my Chinese name.

"Yes," I replied.

"You are ordered to appear at our bureau immediately," he said. Click.

Three days later, I was on a plane bound for Hong Kong, expelled from China. Officially, I stood accused of stealing state secrets and violating martial law provisions. My actual offense: I'd written about Tiananmen Square.

Since April of that year, when demonstrations first erupted, I had spent many nights on the square. I had frequented the dorm rooms of student activists and had wandered throughout the city, trying to chronicle the unfolding events. On the night of June 3, I was on the western outskirts of the city when the People's Liberation Army opened fire on protesters there. By the early hours of June 4, I was in the center of the square with the remnants of the student movement as the army tightened its noose.

THE WASHINGTON POST
John Pomfret in Tiananmen Square in 1989 with student leaders Wang Dan, center, and Wu'er Kaixi, right.

Twenty years after the crackdown, the most intriguing question to me isn't how many people died, or whether there were deaths on the square itself or just on the streets that led to it. It's this: How has the Communist Party managed to emerge from that experience stronger than ever?

In 1989, a chorus of Western voices predicted the party's collapse. "One foot in power and one foot on a banana peel," was how the late, great David Schweisberg of United Press International described the party's predicament. I, too, filed my share of sensationalist dispatches, intimating a coming collapse.

But the party has defied such predictions. And it has done so by taking a brilliant step: giving a lot of Chinese—in the countryside, the cities, the media, the security services and the government—a bigger stake in preserving the existing system.

It's easy to conclude that the double-digit economic growth that has persisted since the early 1990s is what has kept the communists in power. And yes, Deng Xiaoping's trip to Shenzhen in 1992 opened the door to the resumption of pro-market economic reforms and an export-led growth strategy. The results include huge trade surpluses, a massive capital influx and the creation of Deng's social contract with the Chinese people: You can get rich and I won't mess with you, or you can dabble in politics and I will.

But China's communists needed a lot more to stay on top of the heap. Instead of thwarting change, as it had in 1989, the party realized that it needed to lead it. "Keeping up with the times" has become its new motto—in the rural backwaters and the megalopolises, too.

In the countryside, where the majority of the 1.3 billion Chinese live, the party has encouraged township and village enterprises, or TVEs—basically small factories in rural areas—that have absorbed millions of farmers and constituted a powerful engine of growth. TVEs have been a major force in China's urbanization. Nearly 200 million people have moved off the land and into cities over the past 20 years.

Such factories and other development projects have also created problems. Since the early 1990s, party bosses and developers have joined forces to roust millions of farmers off their land to build factories and development zones. This has led to huge protests. But the party has learned from Tiananmen. Instead of cracking down on all the malcontents, it jails only the peasant leaders. The rest, it buys off, giving them enough compensation

See AFTER on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Dalian dalliance

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

A lawyer friend in the CNMI will have some explaining to do. It is one thing to be holding out on valuable information, another to be keeping a lid on a treasure whose existence is evidently known save *moi*. Dalian is a diamond aglow, a modern Dream World, a Shangri-la in Manchuria's Liaodong peninsula.

It was one Hong Kong January day in the '70s when ladies in the picturesque Pok Fu Lam Road homes on Victoria Island were aching for cold weather. They were ready to wear their real or imitation fur coats they'd taken out of storage since early December. When the Siberian winds arrived, they were all out to dinner at the old Hilton above Connaught Center, chauffer-driven dressed to the nines with husbands or lovers in tow.

Dalian is billed as the Hong Kong of China's *Dong Bei* (Northeast). No offense to Hong Kong but that's like comparing Korean pear with the garden variety in Georgia. The similarity does apply re ladies' response to the weather. On this first week of the summer in Dalian, the ladies must have been waiting for a chance to put on their boutique hot pants, minis and midis, and spaghetti-stringed blouses with various versions of net leggings, or silk stockings for an incredible display of locally grown pulchritudinous attributes.

Dalian's colorful diversity in taste is on display in the Victory shopping plaza across the railway station where a welcome sign is in four languages: English, Russian, Korean and Japanese, with the corresponding products from each on sale in five underground storied floors. It did not take long to discover that all the products being sold carried brands from the countries represented, but were actually made in China. The shopping stalls, and the whole shopping malls around the city are factory outlets of locally manufactured brand products.

Dalian is the financial and marketing center. It is also a cultural hub. Though only a century old, it boasts of the considerable influence of Russia and Japan, and now, of the United States and Korea. It's educational institutions serve quite an international studentry, and the DNA of its population is definitely mongrel!

The influence of tribes from Caucasus through the Czar's Empire and later, the Soviet Union, lingers; nay, it had come to stay. Students from Irkutsk speaking fluent English learn *Putunghua* (official Chinese). Kempinski Hotel and the InterCon compete with the Shangri-la, the Nikko, and the Wanda.

I ran into a Gaelic looking couple on the train to Dalian who were all smiles when they caught my eye. I tried my limited French: *"Parlez vous Francais?"* The guy shook his head so I tried my College Spanish: *"Hablas tu Español?"* The guy smiled and said, "No, but I speak a little English!" They were Russians students. Regretted not paying more attention to my Cyrillic at the University!

This multi-cultural and multi-ethnic make-up of Dalian and its environs was confirmed by Paul and Carolyn, retired California teachers now living in Dalian. She taught public school, he was a piano teacher with accomplished Chinese students in L.A. Paul is deep into the culture, so he expanded his piano-playing virtuosity with the Gu Zhen, a versatile 15-25 string Chinese zither (up to 44 strings customized). Now, he is not only a fluent speaker, but also a Hanzi calligrapher, and an adviser to aspiring Chinese artist of various media.

As noted by the late Lin Yutang who wrote *My China and My People* in 1935, the survival of China as a civilization is its absorptive capacity to foreign invasions and influences without altering the fundamental nature of its ethnic and cultural make-up. My friend's Italy has already faded in Pittsburg, but his Dalian-bred wife's China will remain intact in Hawaii.

Dalian prides itself as the summer Davos, hosting the World Economic Forum at the Expo Center in Xinghai Bay commercial district. The Xinghai Square hosts an incredible winter park, a full size castle and a Shell Museum that looks like a cross between the Sydney Opera house and a roofed U.S. football arena. The size of the square and its residential and commercial buildings is only one among the similar eco-friendly structures that have sprouted around the 50-mile radius of the city. It prides itself to be Green by any global measure.

The old Chinese saying *Fu nu neng ding ban bian tian,* women hold half of the sky, popularized during Mao's reign, seemed to have taken deep roots in Dalian. To be sure, the strong-willed female in Dong Bei has traditionally towered over her compliant and pampered Soochow cousins, but the smart-looking femme fatale in the streets of Dalian were more than just the result of the combined impact of L'Oreal, Maybelline, Victoria's secret and Shiseido.

Dalian's female component of its police force is at once assertive and firm without being pushover pussy cats, and the female drivers and attendants of lines 201/202 of the city's Metro Rails run their shift like the best the old Pullman cars could offer. These ladies also know how to party by as they came out at midnight from the SOS International Club where they danced the night away with ear deafening percussion beats, walking out to the streets unescorted heading home with all their fineries, but unlike their overly cosmetized sisters in Garapan, are not out to hawk their wares to the next sailor.

At the Luhaotan Pole-Aquarium where the polar bear, sea lion, sea otter, sea turtle, sting rays, sharks, penguins and walrus frolicked, and the dolphins and belugas swam with their trainers, and performed on cue to standing only bunch of kids and mamas (and a few papas), each performance reinforced with an immediate reward, one could not miss the analogy with the current 1.5-billion Sino-race performing on cue with their new toys produced for the world, and housing accessories made for apartments increasingly becoming similar with their faux streets and faux communities in whatever clime they are built. And who else to accompany all these displays but the Prince of Lalaland himself Michael Jackson and his faux Thrilla.

My Dalian condo-owning buddy might have yet to see the landscape and the ladies of Dalian in June, so he is forgiven for his silence. As for me and my house, I am polishing my résumé and see if the Dongbei University of Finance and Economic Press could use a caustic curmudgeon on its staff.

AFTER

From Page 10

to return to their ordinary lives.

Recognizing the vast gap between rich and poor, the party has also announced that peasants no longer have to pay taxes. This hasn't succeeded in closing the gap, but it has been well-received by China's farmers.

In the cities, the party has launched reforms that appeal to China's growing middle class. The most significant is a housing reform program that allows (and occasionally forces) people to buy their own homes. Apartment ownership in the cities has jumped from 17 percent of families to 80 percent over the past two decades, while the average living space per person has increased from about 80 square feet to almost 300. Anyone who has ever been to China has seen the fruits of the huge industry this reform has spawned. The cranes! The glass! The marble! In 1998, the home-decorating market was worth around $50 billion. This year it's expected to surpass $200 billion.

But more than money, housing reform has prompted major social changes. For one, it has created an ownership society. The marchers who flooded Tiananmen Square in 1989 had, in the words of Cui Jian, the balladeer of that generation, "nothing to their names." But today's Chinese urbanites own apartments, cars and Jacuzzis—things they really don't want to lose.

"I have struggled to win my piece of the piece in China," said Tom Lee, a friend who was tossed out of the party following the June 4 crackdown, earned a PhD in the United States and then returned to China to start a software firm. "I want to protect it. I don't want a revolution anymore."

Housing reform has also contributed to individual freedom. It prompted a jump in the divorce rate by creating a rental market, which gave fed-up spouses someplace to go. (In the past, if you wanted to get divorced in China, you pretty much had to sleep on the couch.) It's allowed lovers to live together without getting married.

Personal freedom expanded in other ways, most noticeably in the cities. Old communist China controlled everything. You needed a certificate to marry, divorce, have kids, retire, travel within the country or abroad, move, change jobs. Now, when Chinese finish university, they find their own jobs. Want to travel abroad? Get married? Get divorced? Go ahead.

The party has also reformed in relation to the media and thought control. It has created a system of graduated censorship. University residential communities and upper middle-class gated communities can enjoy uncensored satellite television and generally unblocked Internet access. The rest of China has no such luck, but the media and the propaganda organs that serve them have also changed. Gone are the 13-part series on ball-bearing factories, the staple of the old communist media. China's new communist media is more *People* magazine than *People's Daily*.

The party has also let the Internet become a public square in which anti-party views may be aired—not freely, but with enough regularity to provide a relief valve. The censors have also modified their media controls. When major incidents occur, such as last year's earthquake or the 2003 debacle with SARS, the censors generally ease political pressure by allowing several weeks of relatively free reporting before clamping down—a significant change from the old days when certain topics were banned, period.

But more than money, housing reform has prompted major social changes. For one, it has created an ownership society. The marchers who flooded Tiananmen Square in 1989 had, in the words of Cui Jian, the balladeer of that generation, "nothing to their names." But today's Chinese urbanites own apartments, cars and Jacuzzis—things they really don't want to lose.

Much has been made in the West of how the party has wiped out the memory of Tiananmen Square, of how many young Chinese have no idea what June 4 means and of the bizarre umbrella-wielding plainclothes police officers who blocked Western TV cameras on the square last week. But the party has also softened its tone on the crackdown. It used to refer to it as "counterrevolutionary turmoil." Now the term is the "Tiananmen Incident." Although the leaders of the student movement remain in exile—one of them, Wu'er Kaixi, was stopped last week in Macau as he attempted to return to China—the party has allowed lesser participants to come back for business or to visit family. Journalists who covered the events have also been allowed to return. I eventually made it back, serving as The Post's bureau chief in Beijing from 1998 to 2003.

The party today also uses China's security services differently. It learned an important lesson from Tiananmen: Avoid bloodshed if you can, but at the same time make sure the people understand that the system can still strike back when facing a threat. The decade-long crackdown on the Falun Gong spiritual sect, which has left scores dead, and the spasmodic suppression of separatist movements in Tibet and Xinjiang, send the message: If you get out of line, there are still hard men waiting for you.

Finally, the party itself has changed. Tiananmen saved the party from collapse; it prompted the party to launch a far-reaching investigation into how some political parties succeeded in staying in power and why others failed. As a result of that study, it replaced thousands of party hacks with technocrats and college graduates. It opened its door to business owners who decades ago would have been jailed for walking "the capitalist road." The party now continually schools its cadres (most vice ministers have spent time in the West and many speak some English) and it has upped its requirements for admission. It has also begun to experiment with a measure of intraparty democracy to weed out corrupt or incompetent officials, and it has worked hard to minimize internal battles.

Of course, China and the Chinese Communist Party face a boatload of trouble. The country's demographics are terrible; it's the first country in the world projected to grow old before it gets rich. Its environment is toxic. And at a certain point, China's political system, which still restricts information, will jam up its economic juggernaut. More broadly, the party has yet to find something to stand for other than self-perpetuation. But in China, these feel like problems for another day.

After Western analysts realized that the party would not fall, they seized on another article of faith—that free markets and trade would bring democracy to China. But that hasn't happened either. Today, 20 years after the party's biggest test, China's Communists have retained their hold on power and emerged triumphant—and have done so very much on their own terms.

John Pomfret, the editor of Outlook*, is a former Beijing bureau chief for* The Washington Post *and the author of "Chinese Lessons: Five Classmates and the Story of the New China."*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼80°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

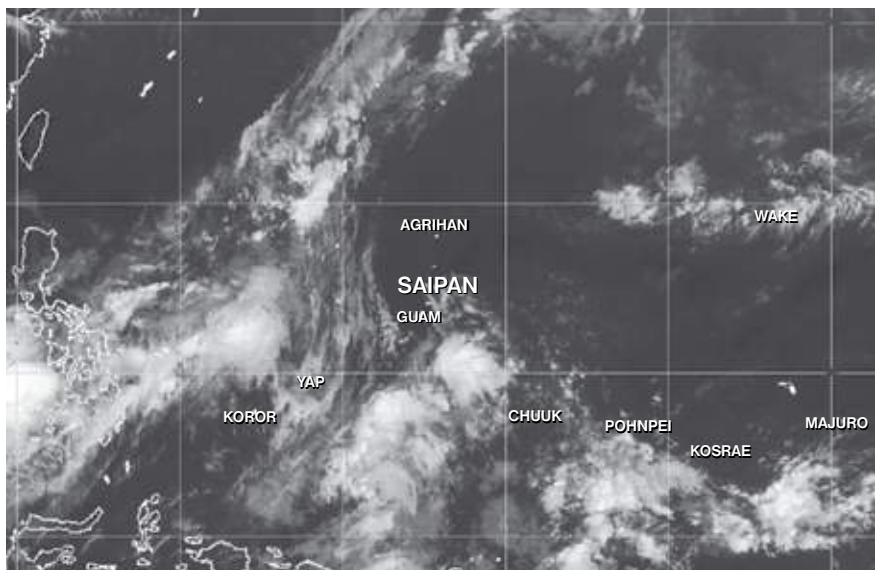
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85	▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲55	▼47
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼68
Hong Kong	Rain	▲87	▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼73
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼50
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼60
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲56	▼47
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼75
New York	Cloudy	▲77	▼65
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼67
Paris	Parly Sunny	▲64	▼52
Pusan	Cloudy	▲75	▼62
Rome	Sunny	▲79	▼57
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼52
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲75	▼61
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼65
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲87	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches southwestward from 25N140E to beyond 130E at 17N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found up to 150 miles either side of the cold front. Converging winds southeast of the front are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northwest of Yap in an area from 11N130E to 17N136E to 12N136E back to 11N130E. A weak circulation southeast of Guam near 11N147E is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 150 miles of a line from 12N148E to 9N148E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in an area from 5N139E to 9N143E to 8N147E to 1N143E back to 5N139E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from south of Pohnpei and Kosrae eastward across Butaritari between the equator and a line from 5N155E 3N165E to 3N180. A shear line extends from 19N157E across Wake Island to 20N170E then northeastward beyond 180 at 23N. Scattered showers are found within 75 miles of the shear line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:13 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
6:41 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:21 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:39 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:17 PM	5:46 AM
Tuesday	8:06 PM	6:38 AM
Wednesday	8:52 PM	7:30 AM
Thursday	9:34 PM	8:22 AM
Friday	10:13 PM	9:12 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Katten Gayu `An Chatagmag

Ginen: John S. DelRosario, Jr.

Ennao i oran `las kuatro kada chatagmag, sesso hu huñgog katen gayu gi chago gi fina halom tano. I triste na katiña ha koneyu tatte gi hagas lanchon mame as Perdido. Guihe na tiempo megai pinegsai gaga yan tinanom. Ginen diario na masahalom mame `nai mansiña ham prumebeniye sentadan familia.

Megai na familia fumaposgue este na chalan deste finagpo geran dos. Megai dispues bumira siha tatte gi hagas tradision natibu `nai mana` fan basta gi hiniyoñg administration i Navy. Tat hobensitu ti tatte para i gualo, tatkilo hogsu yan halom tasen rubentasion.

Este na modun linala` dipotsihe gaige fitme gi natibu deste antigu na komunida. Este na pisu `nai manmakreansa megai gi man-achaamkohu guihe siha na tiempo. Este na plaset `nai siempre un` malulug komo lahe na finañago. Deste halom hatdin familia huyoñg esta`i tase, estague plaset linala`ta komo hirideron este siha na islas.

`Nos kuantos benefisiu hu resibe ginen este na tradision tano. Todo dinisehahu debi bai` fachochue. Yangin ti hu chogue este, pues seguru na mañakeyu` pot gago`hu. Lache este na maña gi maseha haye na patgon lahe. Debi un` fachochue` ya un` gana ginen masahalommu todo haf` un` malague`.

Hafanagueyu lokue hinimidde `nai hu totpe ni monayu ni tatte. Hu aksepta hafa guinahahu sin ditension. Hana libreyu ginen haf` na chechu pitbetserias. Ni uno huna` puti `sino hu amot ni propiadatña. Pareho in` gesa i pas yan trankilidat, haane yan pueñge. Mañge na siniente i motmut respetu, inafamauleg yan koperasion gi entalo membron kumunida.

Megai ti man-deskribiyon na minasapet mafaposgue nu i mañainata. Deste makat na chechu` gualo yan otro sakrifisiu, mamattit siha mañainata pot para uma-asegura na manma-eduka hit. Tat mas fitme na rekueddo ke edukasion famaguonta. Maseha ta lachai muna` atlibes i Stars Spangled Banner, lao los uttimos ta tuñgo man-fino English.

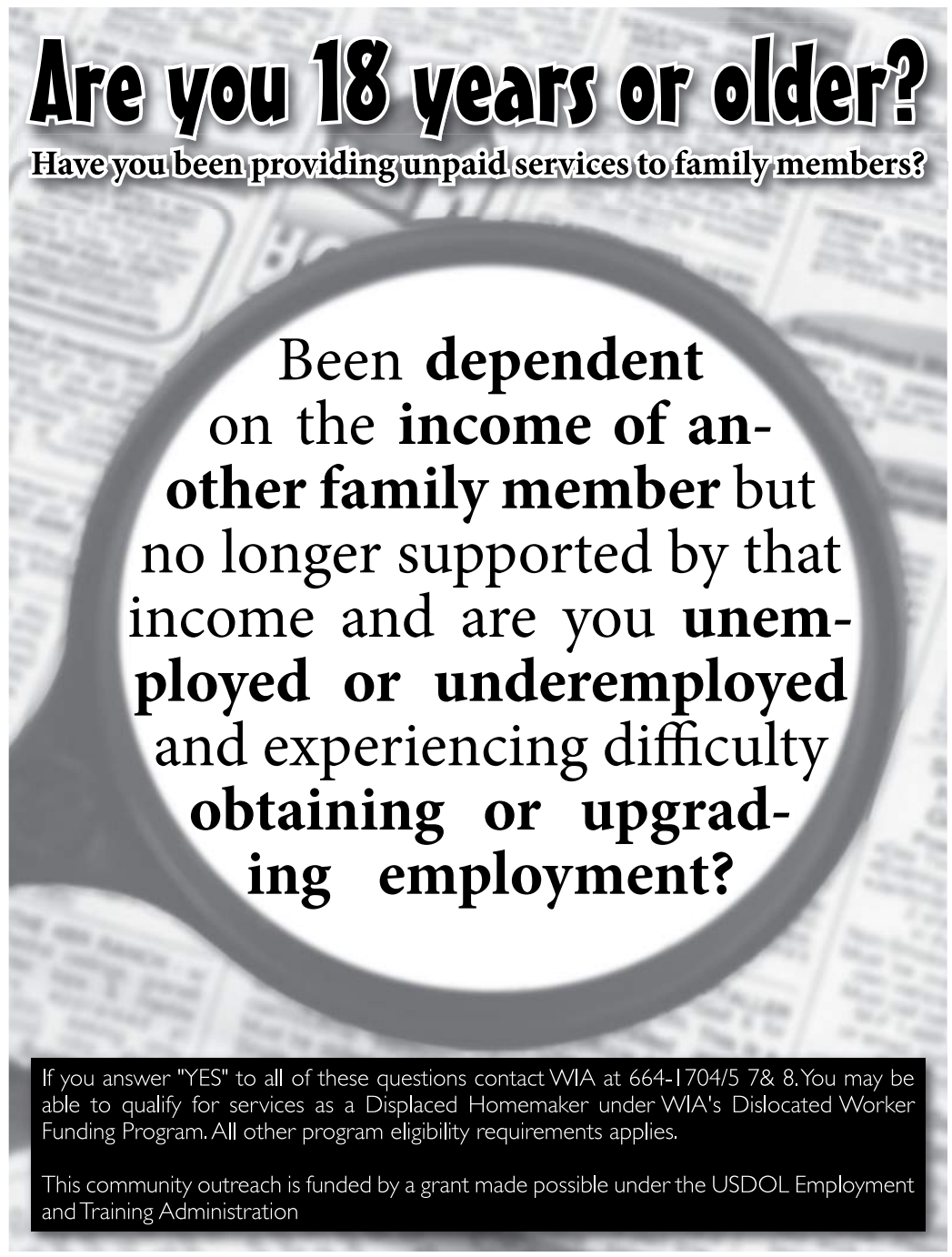
Megai lokue esta gi man-achaidathu man-finagchae esta chinatsaga gi hinemlo niha. Guaha esta man-hanao para i taihinekog na deskanson niha. Guaha lokue man-gagaige ha` ya animu man-machochu` para i ñietu yan ñieta siha. Buente gi finagmatan niha lokue `an chatagmag, mahuhuñgog katen gayu. Ennao i kao triste pat mañge na finatton nuebo na haane, konsukuat. Lao kulan rininueban finaposta antes, likido na sunidon katen gayu `an chatagmag. Si Yuus Maase`!

Letter to the Editor

Bogus settlement

I fully understand this bogus offer of a "settlement offer" from Gov. Benigno R. Fitial since it would carry no more weight than previous "settlement offers." In other words, it would be easily ignored, whereas a ruling by Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo is not so easily passed off. I am so impressed by the statements by Fund board of trustees chair Juan T. Guerrero when he said "...the administration's proposal was ridiculous. We're not going to defer or withdraw the lawsuit. We will wait to the end and allow the court to issue a ruling." He is quite accurate in that assessment and I am surprised that someone has finally displayed the backbone to stand up for what is right. Hooray for Juan! Please stay the course in your position to go ahead with the lawsuit before discussing a payment plan with the administration and even then, watch your back.

Frank Oliver
Sahuarita, AZ


Are you 18 years or older?
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Been dependent on the income of another family member but no longer supported by that income and are you unemployed or underemployed and experiencing difficulty obtaining or upgrading employment?
If you answer "YES" to all of these questions contact WIA at 664-1704/5 7& 8. You may be able to qualify for services as a Displaced Homemaker under WIA's Dislocated Worker Funding Program. All other program eligibility requirements applies.
This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

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Business

Foreign brands gain US entry with GM's dismantling

AP

A security stands guard at the gate of Sichuan Tengzhong Heavy Industrial Machinery Co., Ltd. in Xinjin, southwest China's Sichuan province, Wednesday, June 3, 2009.

DETROIT (AP)—More foreign car brands could find their way into American garages under a plan by auto racing magnate Roger Penske's dealership group to snap up Saturn from the ruins of General Motors Corp.

The deal announced Friday is another example of how the cataclysm that hit Detroit's three carmakers is reshaping the global automotive landscape in profound ways, reducing their worldwide influence and—if Saturn turns out as Penske envisions—opening new markets to smaller companies.

"There's no doubt that the automotive deck chairs are changing," said Michael Robinet, vice president of CSM Worldwide, a Detroit-area auto industry consulting firm.

In the shake-up, well-known brands are changing flags quicker than an oil tanker in pirate-infested waters. Italy's Fiat SpA is waiting for U.S. courts to approve its acquisition of Chrysler LLC's assets. GM has worked deals to turn its German subsidiary Adam Opel GmbH over to a Canadian auto parts company with Russian backing. And Hummer may be going Chinese, although state media there reported Friday that the deal has hit regulatory hurdles.

Yet industry experts are doubtful that the flurry of mergers and alliances will be any more durable than failed marriages of the past, proving to be just one big distraction from the underlying issue that made them so vulnerable in the first place: making more cars than people can buy.

Still, Penske, who already runs Penske Automotive Group Inc., the second-largest U.S. dealer network, thinks his business model is different enough to be successful.

GM and Penske expect to close the Saturn deal in the third quarter, with the wounded Detroit automaker continuing to build three models for Saturn to distribute.

Key to its success, though, will be the ability to sign on other global manufacturers to make cars for Saturn, giving it a diverse portfolio of vehicles that will sell whether gasoline prices are high or low.

But by opening the door to automakers not now in the U.S., such as France's Renault, Penske could alter the market here, allowing smaller automakers to compete against Detroit.

Penske, in an interview with The Associated Press, said foreign automakers would be key to his business model, but they will have to match GM quality standards before Saturn's 350-dealer network will distribute their products.

"As people around the world look at that, they have the opportunity to tap us on the shoulder and say 'we have product that we'd like to bring into the U.S.,'" he said.

GM *to spend* $2 *billion to facilitate* Delphi *sale*

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp. said Friday it will pay $2 billion to Delphi Corp. to aid in the sale of the automotive parts supplier to a private equity firm, in exchange for equity of a newly restructured Delphi.

According to a Friday Securities and Exchange Commission filing, General Motors, currently under bankruptcy protection, will use some of the $30 billion in taxpayer funds it is receiving to help a California firm, Parnassus Holdings II LLC, acquire the auto parts maker. Delphi is struggling to emerge from its own 2005 bankruptcy protection filing.

Troy, Mich.-based Delphi is a former GM subsidiary and the automaker's largest supplier. GM will also provide a $250 million credit facility to aid the company before it emerges from bankruptcy protection, and a $500 million loan facility following the sale.

"Delphi's modified plan represents an important step in resolving the Delphi bankruptcy and in GM's own efforts to reinvent its business," said GM spokeswoman Renee Rashid-Merem in a statement. "Relative to GM's support, the anticipated funding for the investment was contemplated in GM's revised viability plan, as well as the overall debtor-in-possession financing budget agreed to with the U.S. Treasury prior to GM's filing for Chapter 11."

A Treasury Department spokeswoman said in a statement Friday that it supports GM's efforts to help Delphi emerge from bankruptcy protection.

As previously announced, GM will also acquire some of Delphi's North American plants, as well as its steering business. Other "non-core" plants and assets will be sold off over time.

Parnassus Holdings II LLC, an affiliate of Platinum Equity, will operate Delphi's businesses both in the U.S. and abroad.

A spokesman for Platinum said the company has spent three years learning the business, developing restructuring plans and helping "create a roadmap to long-term health and profitability."

"Platinum is uniquely equipped to help Delphi emerge from bankruptcy," said Daniel Whelan.

Kennedy bill would make employers provide care

WASHINGTON (AP)—Employers would be required to offer health care to employees or pay a penalty—and all Americans would be guaranteed health insurance—under a draft bill circulated Friday by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's health committee.

The bill would provide subsidies to help poor people pay for care, guarantee patients the right to select any doctor they want and require everyone to purchase insurance, with exceptions for those who can't afford to.

Insurers would be supposed to offer a basic level of care and would be required to cover all comers, without turning people away because of preexisting conditions or other reasons. Insurance companies' profits would be limited, and private companies would have to compete with a new public "affordable access" plan that would for the first time offer government-sponsored health care to Americans not eligible for Medicare, Medicaid or other programs.

It all adds up to sweeping changes in how America's health care system operates and aims to achieve President Barack Obama's goal of holding down costs and extending health coverage to 50 million uninsured Americans.

It's already been known that Kennedy's health committee was planning to pursue most of the concepts outlined in the draft of the bill, called the "American Health Choices Act." But it's the first actual bill language to circulate since Congress began working on Obama's health care overhaul.

Congressional and interest groups officials cautioned that the language in the document was not final.

"It's a draft of a draft. HELP Democrats are still actively talking amongst themselves and their Republican colleagues," said Anthony Coley, spokesman for the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee that's chaired by Kennedy, D-Mass.

Obama team plans more active role on health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House, backing away from President Barack Obama's "it's-all-on-the-table" approach initially advocated, prepared to get louder and more involved in the details of a health care overhaul that officials once were content to leave to Congress, administration officials said Saturday.

The White House's attention increases as Congress turns to a priority that officials watched in recent weeks drift off what has otherwise been a precise pathway. Even with an Obama-imposed August deadline, many administration aides weren't sure just how much they would be able to accomplish before Congress left for the summer, and Obama has turned to his grassroots supporters to pressure Congress to find a solution.

Covering 50 million uninsured Americans could cost as much as $1.5 trillion over a decade, but Obama has cited the crippling impact on the economy of soaring health care costs and society's long-standing need to resolve the problem. Obama and lawmakers say they want to lower costs, ensure choice and provide coverage to those who are uninsured. Obama and his advisers initially let Congress take the lead, remembering what happened when President Bill Clinton took to Congress a plan deemed too detailed and too prescriptive.

Draft legislation from the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee would require employers to cover their employees or pay a penalty and would guarantee coverage for all.

But Obama supports a new public insurance plan that would give all Americans the opportunity of getting government-sponsored care. Private insurers are adamantly opposed, fearing they'd be driven out of business, as are most Republicans. And Obama's team has grown more willing to take the lead.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan explores using cell phones to stop pandemics

TOKYO (AP)—A few months from now, a highly contagious disease will spread through a Japanese elementary school. The epidemic will start with several unwitting children, who will infect others as they attend classes and wander the halls. If nothing is done, it will quickly gain momentum and rip through the student body, then jump to parents and others in the community. But officials will attempt to stymie the disease and save the school—using mobile phones. The sickness will be a virtual one, in an experiment funded by the Japanese government. A subsidiary of Softbank Corp., a major Japanese Internet and cellular provider, has proposed a system that uses phones to limit pandemics.

Gates Foundation gets $10.4M in donations

SEATTLE (AP)—The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's annual report says it brought in $10.4 million in individual donations in 2008, without making an effort at fundraising. That dollar amount does not include new money from Bill or Melinda Gates or their friend Warren Buffett, who gave the world's richest foundation's trust about $1.8 billion worth of Berkshire Hathaway stock last year. The foundation had an endowment totaling $27.5 billion as of April 1. It began accepting individual donations in 2007. At that time, a foundation spokeswoman said Bill and Melinda decided it wasn't right to say yes to Buffett and no to everyone else who wanted to support the work of the foundation.

Timberland staying in Stratham, NH

STRATHAM, N.H. (AP)—After searching 18 months for a possible new home, the outdoor apparel maker Timberland Co. is staying in Stratham, N.H. Timberland had considered moving to nearby Portsmouth. It said this week it will stay at its current location in Stratham, where it's been since 1994.

The company told Foster's Daily Democrat it's working with its landlord to modernize the building.

Texas co. buys Filene's Basement at bankruptcy bid

BOSTON (AP)—An affiliate of the Houston-based Men's Wearhouse was the successful bidder for the 100-year-old Filene's Basement chain after bidding $67 million for the off-price retailer at a bankruptcy auction. The K&G Acquisition Corp. will buy the Basement name, 17 to 20 of its 25 stores, all inventory, the lease for the flagship Boston location in Downtown Crossing, and leases for the company's Burlington headquarters and Auburn warehouse. The bankruptcy auction, held Friday in New York, had fielded at least two other offers, the Boston Herald reported. The bid, which requires bankruptcy court approval, includes stores in Boston's Back Bay, Newton, Watertown and Braintree.

Nation

Alabama escaped convicts caught in North Dakota

By KATE BRUMBACK
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

A nearly 14-hour standoff on a ranch in North Dakota ended Saturday with the arrest of two men who escaped from a rural Alabama prison more than 1,200 miles away, a federal law enforcement official said.

Joshua Southwick, 26, and Ashton Mink, 22, were apprehended following two shootouts with North Dakota law enforcement, nearly two weeks after their brazen escape from the Perry County Detention Center in Uniontown, Ala.

Also taken into custody were two women who authorities said helped the men escape: Angela Diana Mink, 25, and Jacquelin Rae Kennamer Mink, 25, Mink's sister and wife, respectively.

Mink

Ashton and Jacquelin Mink were wounded after the two ran out of a ranch building and Ashton Mink fired a gun at officers, said the law enforcement official, who requested anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the matter.

Police returned fire and hit the man. Jacquelin Mink was also shot, but it was not immediately clear whether her wound was self-inflicted or a result of police fire. Both survived and were taken to hospitals. Their conditions weren't immediately known.

The four had eluded law enforcement in at least seven states until a robbery at a video store in North Dakota around midnight Friday. The fugitives, who are suspected of the robbery, fled the scene and then holed up in an outbuilding on a ranch in Dickinson, N.D., the law enforcement official said.

Officers exchanged shots with the suspects as they drove away from the video store, but law enforcement lost them.

Around 12:45 a.m. Saturday, a rancher contacted authorities to say people had run into one of his buildings, the official said.

Slain abortion doctor eulogized as generous

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Hundreds of people gathered Saturday to honor slain abortion provider Dr. George Tiller, eulogized by a longtime friend as a passionate and generous man who repeatedly overcame difficult challenges.

Tiller's funeral at College Hill United Methodist Church also drew small groups of protesters. Police and federal marshals provided heavy security.

Tiller, one of the nation's few providers of late-term abortions, was killed by a gunshot last Sunday in the foyer of his own church, Reformation Lutheran, while he was serving as an usher and his wife was singing in the choir. His family had the funeral at the Methodist church to accommodate the large number of mourners.

His son, Maury, said the manner of his father's death resulted in an unimaginable outpouring of love and support for the family.

But he added: "I struggle with the manner he was welcomed into heaven."

Others recalled personal quirks that made him human.

Tiller's daughter, Rebecca, recalled how her father loved "Star Trek," and gave her a framed poster of Trekkie sayings for her apartment, which he promised her would bring her success if she read them each day before going out. Among his favorites were: "Live long and prosper," and, "When you go out to the universe remember, boldly go where no man has gone before."

Man sought for threatening president arrested

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Authorities have arrested a man who allegedly told bank tellers while cleaning out his savings account in Utah that he was on a mission to kill President Barack Obama.

The Secret Service said Daniel James Murray, 36, was arrested Friday outside a casino in Laughlin, Nev., a gambling town 100 miles from Las Vegas on the Nevada-Arizona line.

He was charged Thursday in Salt Lake City with a federal count of conveying threats while talking to tellers last month at Zions First National Bank in St. George, Utah.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Barbara Bearnson said Murray was in federal custody in Nevada and likely will get a court date there Monday. Neither Bearnson nor the Secret Service would discuss whether Murray was considered to be a serious threat.

Charging documents say Murray, originally from Rexford, N.Y., is the registered owner of eight guns.

He was described by his father and former neighbors in Rexford as troubled but not dangerous, known for strolling down a street wearing a cape while talking to himself.

"He's sick. He's been sick for about 10 years," Michael Murray, his father, told the Times Union of Albany, N.Y.

In charging documents filed Thursday, the Secret Service said Daniel Murray made bizarre statements while opening—and then closing within two weeks—an $85,000 savings account.

Mexican day care fire victim treated in Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A 3-year-old girl severely burned in a day care fire that killed 38 children in northern Mexico was being treated Saturday at a regional pediatric burn center in Sacramento, and a second victim of the tragedy was on the way.

The girl had burns over 80 percent of her body and was expected to require months of care at Shriners Hospitals for Children Northern California. A hospital spokeswoman said she was in critical condition.

Dr. Tina Palmieri, assistant chief of burns for the hospital, said the survivability rate in such cases is about 50 percent.

"It's going to be challenging," she said. "A lot of it is how deep the burn is and where it's located and how bad is the smoke inhalation."

The hospital said a second child from the day care, likely a 3-year-old boy, was expected to arrive Saturday night.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-CHC-104

SUBMISSION: JUNE 22, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES TO ENHANCE MASS FATALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CNMI"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **MR. WARREN VILLAGOMEZ, HPP COORDINATOR, COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER** BY FAX TO (670) 236-8756 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **JUNE 18, 2009**.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **PEDRO T. UNTALAN**
ACTING SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-OPM-099

SUBMISSION: JUNE 29, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR AN ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND EXCEPTED SERVICE EMPLOYEES FOR THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS..

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **10:00 A.M., JUNE 17, 2009** AT THE OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, CONFERENCE ROOM, QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO **DR. PETER C. ECHE, TRAINING DIRECTOR, echewpc@pticom.com** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **JUNE 19, 2009**.

/s/ **ISIDRO K. SEMAN**
ACTING OPM DIRECTOR

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
June 8, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  1. Roll Call
  2. Adoption of Agenda
  3. Adoption of Minutes
    a. May 13, 2009
    b. May 20, 2009
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  1. Financial Report-CDA
  2. Legal Counsel's Report
IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
  1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
  2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
  3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
  4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities
    a. PTI Services, Inc. – QC Application
    b. SandCastle Saipan, LLC Benefits
V. OLD BUSINESS
VI. NEW BUSINESS
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Coastal Resources Management Office hereby reminds the general public of the regulation that is in effect that any and all signs posted along roadways in an Area of Particular Concern, such as the shoreline, wetlands and port & industrial areas, must have a CRM permit prior to such posting.

Beginning June 15, 2009 all such signs, whether for political campaign or otherwise, that are not CRM permitted will be removed as litter.

Please call 664-8300 or visit the CRM office at 2nd Floor Morgen's Building, Beach Road, San Jose, should you have questions or comments about this reminder.

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ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NO. RF09-060

OPENING DATE: **JUNE 2, 2009** CLOSING DATE: **JULY 2, 2009**

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY REQUEST THE RFP PACKET BY E-MAIL, FACSIMILE, OR POSTAL MAIL FROM:

ADMINISTRATOR
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND
PO BOX 501247, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • FAX: 670/664-8080
E-MAIL: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-BOP-108

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 01, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A TERMINAL SERVER FOR THE BOARD OF PAROLE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSEPH T. GUERRERO**
CHIEF OF PAROLE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

NATION

US Airways hero gets rousing hometown reception

DENISON, Texas (AP)—In a town that's no stranger to heroes, one stood out Saturday.

US Airways Capt. Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III returned to his hometown of Denison, Texas, to help pay tribute to military veterans on the 65th anniversary of the Normandy invasion. Denison also was the hometown of the man who led the invasion, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Sullenberger III

Gov. Rick Perry presented Sullenberger with a legislative resolution praising his safe landing of a US Airways jet on the Hudson River on Jan. 15, saving all aboard.

A crowd of flag-waving, sign-holding North Texans staked out sidewalk space early Saturday to get a good glimpse at the 57-year-old pilot and Air Force veteran in a parade down Main Street.

"It makes me proud and makes me feel good to know that somebody from such a small town can do something so great and save a lot of lives," said Helen Moore, a drum major in the high school band.

Barbara Dotson, 27, of Mesquite, held a copy of The New York Times that had a picture of Sullenberger's plane floating in the Hudson—and Sullenberger's signature newly added in the top-left corner.

"He's a hero because he saved all those people's lives," she said, "And he was unselfish in what he did."

Speaking briefly after the parade, he said it was circumstance that brought together the crew on that particular flight and thanked them for their work. He said he was very proud to see that Denison had retained the small-town values it had when he grew up there.

Sullenberger also thanked the widow of his Denison flight instructor. Then he scanned the crowd of people and said he had just one question: "How come you weren't this nice to me back in high school?"

Teen survivor of genocide awaits US graduation

SEATTLE (AP)—Two years ago, Candide Uwizeyimana could not speak a word of English. A survivor of the Rwandan genocide, she lost her family and later was separated from those who rescued her from an orphanage, fed and housed her and paid for her education.

Survival was the focus of her first 16 years. But drive, determination and some luck have given Candide the opportunity to live a completely different life in the suburbs north of Seattle, where she saw snow for the first time and is about to graduate from high school.

Can she afford a new dress to wear under her gown? Will she go on to a university next or study at a community college and continue working and saving money from her job at the Safeway grocery store?

These are today's concerns but they are not her story.

Rwanda was filled with fear and panic in 1993, a year before the country would explode in ethnic violence that would claim as many as 1 million lives. Villages in the mountainous region of Gikongoro in southwest Rwanda were not immune from the atrocities.

Life was becoming unbearable for Joseph Rurangwa and Beatrice Nilabakunzi and their five daughters, Candide and her four sisters, Leaticia, Adeline, Angelique and Theodette.

When the family dog started bringing home human body parts, the couple decided it was time to leave the village where Candide had always lived.

Amid the crackle of gunfire they set out on a dusty road, joining a stream of people trying to escape.

For 3-year-old Candide, it was a confusing and scary time. Men and women were yelling at each other, children were crying, and all Candide could hear was the insistent voice of her father urging her and her sisters to walk.

ACROSS THE NATION

Scientists eye glowing volcano crater in Hawaii

VOLCANO, Hawaii (AP)—The summit of Hawaii's Kilauea volcano is glowing brightly as molten lava swirls 300 feet below its crater's floor, bubbling near the surface after years of spewing from the volcano's side. The expanding vent of Halemaumau crater helps confirm scientists' belief that the lava is close to the surface of the summit, said Janet Babb, a geologist and spokeswoman for the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. Park rangers have begun keeping the overlook at the Jaggar Museum open later at night to accommodate the growing number of visitors arriving at dusk or after dark to view the glow. Kilauea has been erupting for more than 25 years, with its lava creating a plume of steam as it spills into the Pacific Ocean.

Illegals interrupt less desert military training

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Illegal border crossings have dwindled so much in southwestern Arizona that Marine Corps pilots rarely have to abort practice bombing runs any more on their vast desert target range. Illegal immigrants hiking through the desert have long created problems for military air operations on the 2,700-square-mile Barry M. Goldwater Range, which butts up against the U.S.-Mexico border in some areas. In the past, intruders have forced Marine pilots to divert their AV-8B Harrier jets to other target areas or to land without completing their missions. But enforcement and technology mean intrusions have virtually ceased on the western-most part of the range used by the Marines. "It's borderline nonexistent," said Ron Pearce, the Corps' range management officer. "I would say there have been zero flights canceled this year," with only slight delays. The isolated range has been a crossing point for years for illegal immigrants seeking to avoid more heavily patrolled stretches of the U.S.-Mexico border. There have been no reports of immigrants being struck by military ordnance.

Mayors in NJ and CA popular 'tweeters'

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Newark Mayor Cory Booker and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom are blazing a new trail in political discourse from opposite sides of the country as they build huge Internet followings on Twitter's fast-growing social network. They don't lead the biggest U.S. cities—San Francisco ranks 13th and Newark 64th—but have gained prominence by replacing heavily vetted, sterile political prose with personal missives on the stream of consciousness confessional. So much so, that they now have more followers on Twitter than all other mayors, all 435 members of the House of Representatives, 99 of 100 U.S. senators, and 49 of the 50 state governors—among users carrying the "political" tag on the Twitterholic tabulation site. Online social networks are rapidly making traditional political advertisements obsolete, said veteran political strategist Joe Trippi, who used Internet fundraising to propel Howard Dean's 2004 presidential campaign. The social networks are giving elected leaders like Booker and Newsom a new way to satiate the public's hunger for transparency.

Asia

Pakistan health care crumbles with refugee influx

DAGAR, Pakistan (AP)—She doesn't have a name yet.

Born five weeks too early, she came into this world at the end of a painful six-hour drive on a creaky old bus that passed through a battlefield before arriving at the hospital. There was no electricity and not enough fuel for an incubator to feed oxygen into her tiny lungs.

Her mother, Zeenat, lay in a rusted steel bed, covered in a dirty blue blanket, the incision from her Cesarean section now septic.

Pakistan's rundown health care system is near collapse, say health officials, bringing yet more instability to a country already in turmoil. Hospitals have been overwhelmed by more than two million refugees from the mountainous northwest, where the army is battling Taliban insurgents. The crisis has exhausted doctors, used up limited supplies of medicines and buried hospitals in a mountain of red tape as they try to get money and medicine for the crisis.

"In fact, to tell you honestly, health is not our national priority. It is very unfortunate," says Dr. Arshad Khan, the health ministry's top man in Mardan, which is the epicenter of the refugee onslaught because it borders the battlezone. "And now, with this crisis, every smaller hospital is overloaded with displaced people and our district hospital in Mardan is collapsing."

The outpatient unit at Khan's 213-bed district hospital used to see 100 people a day before the anti-Taliban war. Now it is up to an average of 500 a day.

The government has allocated one million rupees ($12,500) for medicine for the refugees. But Khan says it will be months before the refugees see any because of bureaucratic hurdles attached to the money.

Philippine troops seize Muslim rebel camp, kill 30

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Government troops seized a Muslim separatist rebel camp Saturday following three days of fighting that left 30 guerrillas dead, a Philippine military spokesman said.

A rebel spokesman denied any of its camps had been overrun.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front camp that was taken in southern Maguindanao province housed 20 bunkers that could accomodate about 200 fighters, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Ponce, spokesman for the army's 6th Infantry Division.

Troops recovered ammunition and four improvised explosive devices fashioned from 60-mm mortars, he said.

"This was also a bomb factory," Ponce told reporters in Manila by telephone from the division headquarters about 31 miles (50 kilometers) from the fighting.

The camp was in a remote village in Guindulungan township and was ringed by four outposts with a big hall in the center, Ponce said. It also had foxholes linked to each other by trenches.

He said the rebels were "well-entrenched" and the army had to pound the camp with artillery, bombs and rockets before troops moved in for the final assault early Saturday.

Ponce said at least nine guerrillas were killed Thursday after fighting erupted and five soldiers were wounded. In all, 30 guerrillas were killed and more than 20 others were wounded, he said.

Chinese rescuers attempt to save 27 trapped miners

BEIJING (AP)—Rescuers blasted through rock and debris Sunday to try and reach 27 miners trapped after a massive landslide buried an iron ore plant and several homes in a valley in southwestern China, leaving 26 people dead and dozens missing.

The landslide buried the Jiwei Mountain iron ore mine and covered its two entrances with rocks Friday while 27 miners were still inside, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Authorities believe they could still be alive.

No official death toll has been released, but state broadcaster CCTV reported Saturday that 26 people were killed—19 miners and seven staff from a mobile phone company. When asked to confirm the report, Chongqing government spokesman Ai Yang said no bodies had been found so far.

The landslide occurred in Wulong county, about 90 miles (150 kilometers) from resource-rich Chongqing city, where industrial accidents are common.

Rescuers attempted to reach the shaft where the miners are believed to be trapped by setting off explosives Saturday near one of the plant's entrances, Xinhua said. More explosives were detonated Sunday, CCTV said. Plans were under way to drill a 130 foot (40 meter) deep hole to give the miners air and send water and food down.

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea: North's nuke, missile threats won't work

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president said Saturday his country won't give in to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, while Pyongyang accused Seoul of sending patrol boats into its territorial waters—the scene of past bloody naval clashes. In France, President Barack Obama suggested a new, stronger response to North Korean nuclear and missile testing, saying the North has tested the limits of patient diplomacy intended to persuade the reclusive communist country to accept international demands and end to its nuclear program. The North's official Korean Central News Agency alleged the patrol boats were sailing into North Korean waters daily around the rivals' disputed western sea border. The Korean-language report warned that aggressors would be dealt "merciless punishment that will be beyond imagination."

Body of US climber found after China avalanche

BEIJING (AP)—The body of an American mountain climber has been found after an avalanche in an isolated part of southwestern China, the official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday. Rescue workers were still searching for two other American members of the group who went missing on Mount Gongga in Sichuan province, Li Zhixin, an official with the Chinese Mountaineering Association, told Xinhua. The report did not identify whose body had been found. Wade Johnson, 24, of Arden Hills, Minnesota, and Micah Dash and Jonny Copp of Boulder, Colo., were last heard from May 20 at the base camp of Mount Edgar, a peak of Mount Gongga, according to an e-mail his parents sent to friends.

UN chief urges war crimes probe in Sri Lanka

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. chief lent credence Friday to the possibility of war crimes in Sri Lanka, saying an international investigation is needed to examine the military actions of the government and defeated Tamil Tiger rebels during the civil war. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, at a closed-door briefing for Security Council members, called for a credible inquiry to be undertaken with international backing and full support from Sri Lanka's government. He declined to elaborate on exactly how the inquiry should be done, but he urged an examination of what he said were serious allegations of violations of international humanitarian laws, according to diplomats and U.N. officials who attended.

World

2 bodies, ticket found near Air France crash site

RECIFE, Brazil (AP)—Searchers found two passengers' bodies and a briefcase containing an Air France Flight 447 ticket in the Atlantic Ocean near where the jetliner is believed to have crashed, a Brazil military official said Saturday.

The French agency investigating the disaster, meanwhile, said airspeed instruments were not replaced as the maker recommended before the plane disappeared in turbulent weather nearly a week ago during a flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris with 228 people aboard.

All were killed, the world's worst commercial air accident since 2001, and Air France's deadliest plane crash.

The bodies of two male passengers were recovered Saturday morning about 70 kilometers (45 miles) south of where Air France Flight 447 emitted its last signals—roughly 400 miles (640 kilometers) northeast of the Fernando de Noronha islands off Brazil's northern coast.

Brazilian air force spokesman Col. Jorge Amaral said an Air France ticket was found inside a leather briefcase.

"It was confirmed with Air France that the ticket number corresponds to a passenger on the flight," he said.

Admiral Edison Lawrence said the bodies were being transported to the Fernando de Noronha islands for identification. A backpack with a laptop and a vaccination card also was recovered.

The finds could potentially establish a more precise search area for the crucial black box flight data and voice recorders that could tell investigators why the jet crashed.

WORLD BRIEFS

Castro questions timing of Cuban spy arrests

HAVANA (AP)—Fidel Castro called the case of two Americans accused of spying for Cuba "strange" Saturday and questioned whether the timing of their arrests was politically motivated. In an essay read by a newscaster on state television, the former Cuban leader noted that the retired Washington couple were taken into custody just 24 hours after the Organization of American States voted to lift a decades-old suspension of Cuba's membership in that group. Though the U.S. ultimately supported the OAS vote Wednesday, the administration of President Barack Obama initially wanted to see more democratic reforms on the communist island before Cuba was readmitted.

9 more police killed in Amazon protests in Peru

BAGUA, Peru (AP)—President Alan Garcia labored Saturday to contain Peru's worst political violence in years, as nine more police officers were killed in a bloody standoff with Amazon Indians fighting his efforts to exploit oil, gas and other resources on their native lands. The new deaths brought to 22 the number of police killed—seven with spears—since security forces moved early Friday to break up a roadblock manned by 5,000 protesters. Protest leaders said at least 30 Indians, including three children, died in the clashes. Authorities said they could confirm only nine civilian deaths, but cabinet chief Yehude Simon told reporters that 155 people had been injured, about a third of them with bullet wounds.

Obama: D-Day veterans changed course of century

OMAHA BEACH, France (AP)—President Barack Obama honored the valiant dead and the "sheer improbability" of their D-Day victory, commemorating Saturday's 65th anniversary of the decisive invasion even as he remakes two wars and tries to thwart potential nuclear threats in Iran and North Korea.

The young U.S. commander in chief, speaking at the American cemetery after the leaders of France, Canada and Britain, held up the sacrifices of D-Day veterans and their "unimaginable hell" as a lesson for modern times.

"Friends and veterans, what we cannot forget—what we must not forget—is that D-Day was a time and a place where the bravery and selflessness of a few was able to change the course of an entire century," he said.

"At an hour of maximum danger, amid the bleakest of circumstances, men who thought themselves ordinary found it within themselves to do the extraordinary."

Obama opened the emotional day by meeting with French President Nicolas Sarkozy in the nearby city of Caen. Their wives, dueling style icons in similar attire, met separately at the elegant French Prefecture.

Appearing with Sarkozy before reporters, Obama displayed growing impatience with North Korea and what he called its "extraordinarily provocative" nuclear and ballistic missile tests. He suggested that the North is testing international patience as diplomacy has failed to persuade the reclusive communist government to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09-024

"Laptops and related equipments for Garapan Elementary School (GES)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Laptops and Related Equipments for Garapan Elementary School**. The Scope of Work is available at PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill. Saipan, MP 96950

All bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 09-024"** containing one (1) original with Three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Questions shall be in writing addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement & Supply Officer or Email to the following address: **florian@saipan.com**

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB09-GOV-095

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the Rapogao and Sablan Quarry Well Fields Isolation and Water System Improvement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business License in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Approximately 8,900 linear feet of distribution and transmission lines and appurtenances.
- One new 0.40 MG glass fused to steel water storage tank, with site work including access road and retaining wall
- New Chlorination System building
- Reconnection of numerous existing water service connections
- Two new pressure reducing stations
- Additive Bids for Maui IV booster station rehabilitation and the Flame Tree water line replacement

A non-refundable payment of $300 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **June 8, 2009** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00** a.m., on **June 23, 2009**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be scheduled at the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **June 22, 2009**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations as out in the NMI Administrative Code Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is available to local bidders per Public Law 5-95 and 5-118.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB09-GOV-095".** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **July 8, 2009**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **July 8, 2009**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 8, 2009**, and must be received no later than **July 17, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **July 20, 2009**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **July 9, 2009**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Health & Fitness

Realistic expectations for swimsuit season

By KATHLEEN MEGAN
(C) 2009, THE HARTFORD COURANT

There's something about summertime that brings a change in vision. Perfectly healthy people who see themselves as whole during the winter begin seeing themselves as parts, parts that won't fit neatly into swimsuits.

Too-big thighs, too-soft abs, too-flabby arms, too-big butts. Suddenly, when they look in the mirror, that's all they see.

And it's probably this summer vision that drives people to their phones: punching up numbers to buy the latest ab-crunching, butt-busting gizmo advertised on TV.

But trainers such as Scott Martin of Big Sky: Fitness for the Human Race, say the belief that any one device or particular exercise can reduce one area of the body is misguided.

"If spot reduction worked, people who chewed gum would have a very skinny face," says Martin, who works at several Big Sky centers in the Hartford, Conn., area.

Or as Joyce Hyde, executive director of HealthTrax Fitness and Wellness Center in Glastonbury, Conn., says, "The fat will come off where the fat will come off."

Trainers say that the weight that goes on first and comes off first is partly related to genetics. Ed Genga, director of fitness at Hartford Hospital, says that usually the body takes off fat in reverse order of how it accumulated. So if extra pounds first appeared around your middle, those will be the last to vanish.

"I do know a lot of people who get discouraged. They may be losing enough weight, but not where they want it," says Genga.

Often, those are the people doing hundreds of crunches but not much else. Beneath the roll of abdominal fat, their muscles are mighty strong, but a six-pack is nowhere in sight.

So what's a beachgoer to do?

Trainers recommend an overall-body workout that will build muscle and reduce weight, creating an overall slimming effect.

We asked Martin for his recommendations of a routine that might have a visible effect in a month.

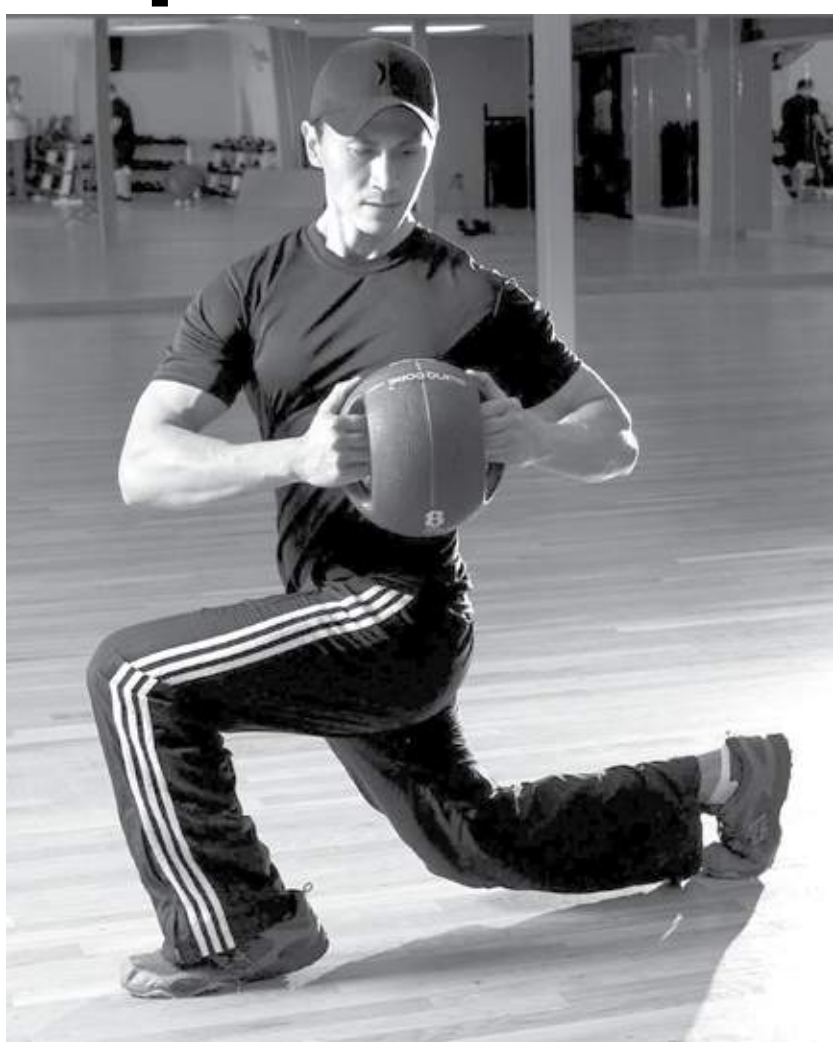
A comprehensive approach is needed, he says, covering diet, cardiovascular exercise and weight-training or strengthening exercises.

"Eighty-percent of it is what you put in your mouth," says Martin. "You can exercise till you're blue in the face, but it won't do a whole bunch of good" if you aren't eating wisely.

This doesn't mean starving yourself. Martin sometimes sees people reduce their intake by too much, which leads to the metabolism slowing down and the body burning fewer calories.

He favors eating small meals every two to four hours, which keeps the metabolism going, keeps blood sugar stable and helps prevent overeating.

"People think you should work out on an empty stomach, but the opposite is true," says Martin. If a morning exerciser hasn't eaten in 13 hours, instead of burning fat, the body goes into starvation mode. It preserves the fat and burns the lean tissue.



THE HARTFORD COURANT
Personal trainer Dan Lee of Big Sky fitness in Simsbury, Conn., demonstrates the lunge and rotation, one of eight exercises in the full-body circuit.

THE HARTFORD COURANT
Scott Martin is the head personal trainer at Big Sky fitness in Simsbury, Conn. Martin has put together eight simple exercises in a routine he calls the full-body circuit.

"I'm not talking about having a steak and home fries" for breakfast, says Martin, just a small snack before exercising.

The aerobic or cardio component of a workout can be walking, running, swimming, bicycling, or whatever you choose to get your heart rate up. It should be 30 to 40 minutes long about three to four times a week, Martin says.

For strength-training, Martin prefers not to use exercise machines. Most grown-ups spend much of every day sitting at work.

"For them to come and sit more at the gym doesn't make sense," says Martin.

He prefers free weights or body weight to build strength. He likes to employ multiple muscle groups at once. Such exercises work more efficiently, he says, because you get stronger faster and burn more calories.

Strengthening is a vital component, he says, because muscle burns more calories than fat; the more muscle you have, the higher your rate of metabolism.

He also suggests warming up with "dynamic flexibility" moves—marching, lunging or doing other moves to warm up the body—and ending the workout with traditional stretching.

Following this plan may not get you J-Lo abs or Michelle Obama arms in a month, but you should lose a few pounds and trim down.

"Everybody is a little bit different," says Martin. "Everybody has different metabolism."

New CDC chief to target smoking; led charge in NYC

ATLANTA (AP)—Dr. Thomas Frieden has swung a big stick as New York City's top health official, pushing through bans on smoking and artery-clogging trans fats.

The New York Post called him "Dr. Buttinsky." Others attacked him as a wrong-headed crusader. But smoking plummeted and the city made admired inroads against cancer and other chronic diseases.

On Sunday, he heads to Atlanta. And on Monday he takes over the federal government's top public health agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—where he's going to have to try a different approach.

ON THE NET
New York Health Department bio: http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/commish/combio.shtml

At the CDC, the 48-year-old physician will command a larger agency, but one with few regulatory powers and more political headaches. Any campaigns against smoking, obesity and other health dangers will have to be won more with carrots than sticks, public health experts say.

"He can't walk across the hall and find a sympathetic mayor and get stuff through. It's a different playing field," said Dr. Jeff Koplan, a former CDC director who fell out of favor with the Bush administration.

A key to succeeding in the CDC job will be whether Frieden can influence other federal agencies, state and local health departments, and health authorities around the world, experts said.

In an interview this week with The Associated Press, Frieden acknowledged the challenge and said partnering with other agencies will be more crucial than it was in New York.

"It's really very different," he said of his new job.

He listed smoking as the nation's No. 1 health issue, and stressed the importance of fighting preventable illnesses. But in carefully worded responses, he did not reveal plans for any new campaigns, saying his initial goal is to work with CDC staff to build future plans.

Was being head of CDC something he aspired to? "I've never really thought about the next job," he said.

Until this week, Frieden ran the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, one of the nation's largest local health agencies, with an annual budget of $1.7 billion and a staff of more than 6,000.

The CDC and its sister unit, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, have a combined budget of about $10.1 billion and more than 14,000 full-time, part-time and contract employees.

The CDC is well regarded but has had its problems.

The agency investigates disease outbreaks, researches health problems, and promotes illness prevention. CDC officials lead the federal response to threats like swine flu, SARS and food poisoning outbreaks. In a 2007 Harris Poll, the CDC was rated as the government agency that does the best job.

But internally, the agency was demoralized. Employees complained about a reorganization that added new layers of bureaucracy, and knocked CDC brass for sometimes going along with Bush administration political positions at the sacrifice of science.

Frieden arrives with a data-first reputation, earned partly through his decision at the start of his New York tenure in 2002, to survey the city to identify the most pressing health issues.

He used the information powerfully, to set goals, clear away opposition and energize his staff. "He impresses upon people the importance of their work and the ideal of improving the public's health. He gets people whipped up," said David Vlahov, a member of the New York Board of Health.

Colleagues describe him as smart, direct, a careful listener, a skilled communicator, a bit reserved with most people. Oh, and very determined.

"He scares some people," Vlahov said.

Frieden was a CDC disease investigator in 1990 when he was assigned to New York City and worked on a large outbreak of drug-resistant tuberculosis. He stayed there, taking a job heading the city's tuberculosis control. Cases of multidrug-resistant TB dropped by 80 percent.

In 1996, he began working in India with the World Health Organization on tuberculosis control. "I hadn't planned on coming back. I sold my apartment in New York," he said.

But New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, elected in 2001, tapped him to be the city's health commissioner. Bloomberg is known as a political and philanthropic champion for public health and he firmly backed Frieden and his plans to attack chronic diseases.

In 2003, the city banned ban smoking in almost all workplaces, a precedent-setting move that inspired other cities to do the same. New York also instituted cigarette tax hikes. Health officials estimate the city has 300,000 fewer smokers now than in 2002, which should translate to fewer cancer cases.

Life & Style

African singer criticized by Muslims plays in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—An African music star who ignited worldwide controversy among fellow Muslims with one of his albums was in the city Saturday to perform at an arts festival aimed at spreading a deeper understanding of Islam.

"I want to show the true face of Islam—a religion in which people can dance, even enjoy," Senegalese singer Youssou N'Dour said over lunch in Harlem, where children mobbed him with adoration in the streets. "People don't have to associate Islam with fear and sadness. Why is that the only image of Islam in the media?"

A new documentary film about N'Dour's struggles and victories plays in theaters across the United States starting June 12. It was screened Saturday evening before his hourlong sold-out live show at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, capped by a frenzied dancing ovation from the audience.

Over the years, the 49-year-old singer has sold millions of albums and performed with Western stars including Bruce Springsteen, Paul Simon, Sting, and Bono.

N'Dour insists on performing religious-themed music in his vibrant, African rhythm-driven shows—despite a boycott of his 2004 album "Egypt" in his native Senegal that lasted almost two years. The album initially was banned in Egypt, with Muslims accusing N'Dour of "desecrating" Islam by mixing it with secular pop culture; some even spread false rumors that he used naked women in videos.

On Friday in Brooklyn, the best-selling pop artist opened the "Muslim Voices: Arts And Ideas Festival" of 100 artists from 23 countries. Their 10-day program ranges from Arabic cinema, Indonesian dance and African music to film and other visual arts.

The documentary "Youssou N'Dour: I Bring What I Love" follows the controversy that tagged N'Dour after the release of "Egypt," which won a Grammy in 2005. The next year, N'Dour and his band filled Carnegie Hall.

AP

African music star Youssou N'Dour embraces children in the Harlem neighborhood of New York, Saturday, June 6, 2009, in advance of a special showing of a new documentary film about his struggle with traditionalists over reflecting his love of Islam in his songs.

Security guard charged with shoving former model

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP)—A security guard has been charged with shoving former model Stephanie Seymour into a door at her Connecticut home.

Greenwich police tell the Greenwich Time newspaper that they arrested the guard, 50-year-old Joseph Babnik of Carmel, N.Y., on Thursday. He was given a misdemeanor summons on a disorderly conduct charge.

The 39-year-old Seymour and her estranged husband, wealthy newsprint magnate Peter Brant, are divorcing. Police say Babnik is watching the estate while the 62-year-old Brant is out of the country.

The couple have been living in different houses on the estate.

Babnik told police that Seymour had taken a slip of paper from him and he was trying to get it back. He says he fell into the door while trying to stop her from entering.

AP

This Sunday, Sept. 7, 2008 picture shows Stephanie Seymour in New York. A security guard has been charged with shoving former model Stephanie Seymour into a door at her Connecticut home.

Patti Blagojevich plays mom to D-list celebs on TV

CHICAGO (AP)—Once she was the first lady of Illinois. Now Patti Blagojevich is gagging down bugs and crawling through tropical slime in a race to be named Queen of the Jungle on a reality TV show.

Impeached Gov. Rod Blagojevich's wife has survived Week 1 on NBC's "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!" Some say her emergence as the plucky, well-liked mom of the group could help erase the image of the "foul-mouthed Lady MacBeth" who spewed profanity on secretly recorded FBI tapes in her husband's corruption case.

"She is trying to put the bacon on the table, and she's shown a lot of strength and fortitude," said Thom Serafin, a Chicago political analyst.

A tearful Patti Blagojevich introduced herself to viewers by explaining that her family had been going through a hard time. She later told her supportive castmates she and her husband had lost their jobs and she was doing this to support their daughters.

"For the last few months of our lives it's been pretty difficult, so in some ways—ah, I'm going to cry," she told an interviewer, looking upward, "after that, the jungle doesn't seem quite so scary."

Rod Blagojevich has pleaded not guilty to charges that he schemed to sell or trade President Obama's former Senate seat and used the muscle of the governor's office to get campaign donations. He was ousted from office in January.

NBC had wanted the former governor on the show, in which viewers vote the quasi-celebrities out of the steaming, bug-ridden jungle camp. The network did get publicity shots of him hoisted in the air by a harness, flapping his arms and legs like a bird.

But U.S. District Judge James B. Zagel, who is presiding over Blagojevich's corruption case, refused to let him leave the country, so his wife joined the cast instead. She is cited on one FBI tape as urging the firing of newspaper writers unfriendly to her husband, but she has not been charged with wrongdoing.

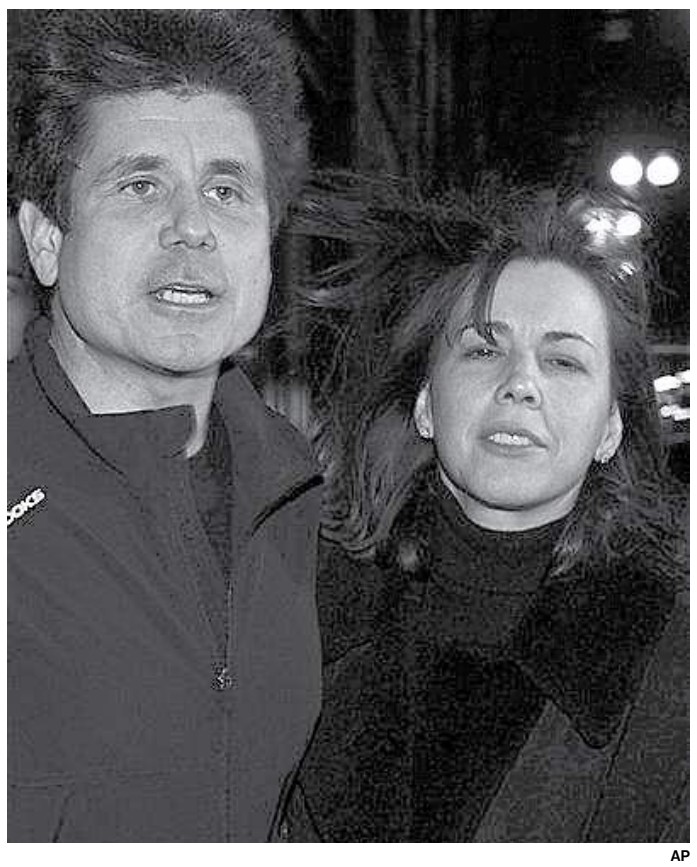
In the first episode (the show airs four nights a week), the former Illinois first lady got carried away by rapids and ate a tarantula. For the rest of the week, she avoided castmate catfights and won immunity from the men in camp, who had to pick one woman to save from the public vote.

But she's got a few weeks to go, and at least one jury expert questions her surprising move to join the cast.

Philip K. Anthony, a Los Angeles-based jury consultant, said while memories of the show may fade, any juror who searches the Internet for Blagojevich's name will find images of Patti Blagojevich crawling on her hands and knees through muck.

"I think it hurts him because for a lot of jurors it will cause him and his family to seem disrespectful of the system ... This occurred because of bad behavior and they are flaunting their celebrity status to the world," Anthony said.

Veteran Chicago political consultant Don Rose said Patti Blagojevich might look good "in contrast to those other goofy people on the show."



AP

In this Sunday Dec. 14, 2008 file photo, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and his wife Patti leave a downtown office building in Chicago.

Gainesville, Fla., names plaza after Bo Diddley

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)—Officials in Gainesville have renamed the city's downtown plaza after rock 'n' roll legend and former Florida resident Bo Diddley.

Diddley died in June 2008. Officials honored him Friday by unveiling a mural and renaming the downtown space the Bo Diddley Community Plaza. Diddley lived in Archer, a few miles southwest of Gainesville, and played at the plaza in 2006.

Diddley's grandson Garry Mitchell thanked the city at the ceremony, and he and other family members gave city officials one of Diddley's guitars.

"Gainesville's been really good to my granddad," Mitchell said. "Thank you for your encouragement and your prayers. Long live Rock and Roll!"

Diddley's family plans to unveil his tombstone in Bronson, also southwest of Gainesville, at 10 a.m. Sunday.

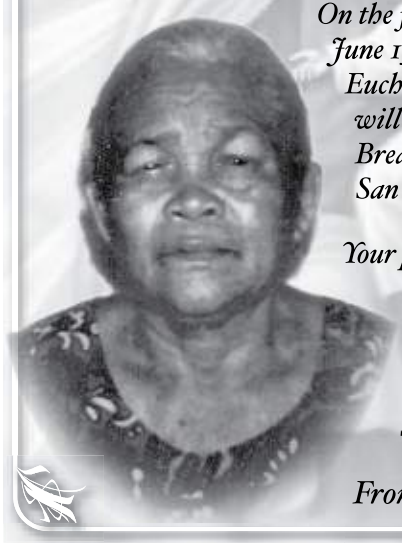
First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

CONSOLACION CONCEPCION PANGELINAN

"Nang Chong"

We, the family humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved Nang Chong unto eternal life. Mass of Intentions will be celebrated beginning on Friday, June 5, 2009 at San Vicente Church at 6:00pm and will continue through Friday, June 12, 2009.



On the final day, Saturday, June 13, 2009, the Eucharistic celebration will be at 6:30 am. Breakfast follows at San Vicente Social Hall.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From the Family

'Land of the Lost' stars, found

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Marshall, Will and Holly were on a routine expedition when they got sucked into the prehistoric "Land of the Lost." But where are the stars of the 1970s children's TV series now?

Some continued working in entertainment; others got far away from the business. But Spencer Milligan (Marshall), Wesley Eure (Will), Kathleen Coleman (Holly) and Philip Paley, who played the mischievous primate Cha-Ka, have stayed in touch some 35 years later, which seems unusual for a series that lasted only three seasons.

With the "Land of the Lost" movie having opened last weekend, now's a good time for us to catch up with them, too:

AP

In this May 30, 2009 photo, Wesley Eure arrives at the premiere of , "Land of the Lost," at Gramuan's Chinese Theater in Los Angeles.

SPENCER MILLIGAN

The 70-year-old Milligan, who played Will and Holly's dad, Rick Marshall, lives with his wife in a 110-acre farm overlooking the water near Sturgeon Bay, Wis., which they've had for the past 18 years.

"We love it because we have all this privacy," Milligan told The Associated Press in a rare interview. "I get the opportunity to direct local plays—I did a couple of plays a couple of years ago, a revival of Tennessee Williams one-acts. I like directing, it's fun."

After "Land of the Lost," he did episodes of such varied TV series as "The Bionic Woman," "Alice," "Quincy M.E." and "General Hospital." He also taught acting.

When he heard about a movie version of "Land of the Lost," Milligan thought: "Well, isn't that something?"

"It's a little kookier than what we did," he said. "They got dinosaurs that look like dinosaurs!"

Milligan left after the first two seasons over a salary dispute with creators Sid and Marty Krofft. Ron Harper replaced him in the final season as Marshall's brother, Jack.

"We had a difference of opinion, let's put it this way, on using my face for stuff and paying me—lunch boxes, compasses—where they were selling them and I thought it was only fair that everyone should get their fair share."

Still, Milligan said he planned to see the movie over the weekend—but he never watches the show.

"That was then," he said. "I don't watch it, I don't think about it too much. You move on.

"I did love working with the kids," he added. "I did enjoy spending time with them. We had a lot of fun."

WESLEY EURE

While playing the hunky Will, Eure was simultaneously shooting "Days of Our Lives," where he played the original Mike Horton from 1974-81. He also co-starred with Valerie Bertinelli, Conrad Bain and Red Buttons in the 1979 movie "C.H.O.M.P.S.," about a young man who develops a robot dog, and in the late '80s he hosted the kids' game show "Finders Keepers" on Nickelodeon.

But Eure has had even more success behind the camera, co-developing the animated PBS children's series "Dragon Tales" and authoring several kids' and comedy books. He's also a longtime fundraiser for AIDS and breast cancer charities in Palm Springs, Calif., where he lives.

Eure, 57, recently came out in an interview with the Web site After Elton, which covers gay and bisexual men in entertainment. In it, he discussed the frustration of being a closeted teen idol in the '70s and his yearlong relationship with Richard Chamberlain. He now has a partner of 2 1/2 years.

"It was a horrible time in Hollywood, being gay. It was horrible," Eure told the Web site. "I was on the cover of Tiger Beat and all those a lot, and they'd do those `Win a Date With Wesley' and `Who's Wesley Dating?' It was so disingenuous."

As for the "Land of the Lost" movie, Eure shot a cameo which was cut when the ending was changed. But he attended the premiere at Hollywood's Grauman's Chinese Theater, as did Paley.

"I walked down the red carpet and it was surreal," he wrote on his Web site, wesleyeure.com. "To think our little Saturday morning show could generate so much buzz! The cost of the party after the show was probably the entire budget of our first season in 1973."

KATHLEEN COLEMAN

Coleman, who went by Kathy in the "Land of the Lost" credits, was famous for her red plaid shirt and blond braided pigtails. But she didn't do much acting after that.

She married young into the prominent Bell family, which settled Bel-Air and other upscale sections of West Los Angeles, and had two sons who are now 28 and 26. While she was only married for five years, she said the family took care of her for 25 years afterward.

Now 47, she lives in the Santa Clarita Valley north of Los Angeles with her longtime boyfriend and is writing a memoir.

While Coleman also shot a cameo that never made it into the movie, she said that, unlike her TV co-stars, she wasn't invited to the premiere. She also said she was made to feel uncomfortable after getting sick on the set. Universal Pictures declined comment.

"I'm mad," Coleman said. "I'm really mad because my family, my friends, my fans are like, `Why wouldn't you be there?'"

But she remains close with her former castmates, whom she called "a family," and has fond memories of the series.

"It was a lovely time in my childhood," she said. "What kid wouldn't like to be running around the set? We had two sound stages—there were caves, things you can climb on—it was a great time back then."

PHILIP PALEY

Paley was only 10 when he was cast as the furry, playful Cha-Ka. Now 45, he's a litigation support project manager at a Los Angeles law firm, helping attorneys gather and preserve evidence during the discovery phase of a trial. Before that, he was a paralegal for 10 years. He's also getting married in July. But he says he misses acting.

"Of course," he said. "It's a lot of fun, I think I'm pretty good at it. I have a problem with the whole pursuit of acting. It's so fraught with rejection, and the pursuit of it is not really for me, but I really enjoy the doing of it."

Attending the premiere and seeing the "Land of the Lost" movie "was very exciting," he said.

"For 35 years, the cast never really received any recognition for the work we did, and so it was pretty cool to finally get a little recognition for our work. We've always known it was a positive show—people love the characters, people were really into it. It imprinted on people some really good things from their childhood.

"The allure of show still is that it's great for kids," he continued. "It's filled with intrigue and it's a little bit scary and there's a lot of innocence in the characters, particularly between Cha-Ka and Holly and how they interact."

Like Coleman, Paley is writing a book about his time on the show. He also has a Facebook page to interact with Cha-Ka fans.

Colbert to broadcast 4 shows from Baghdad

NEW YORK (AP)—Stephen Colbert will broadcast four shows next week from Baghdad, where he says he'll be "Bob Hoping" it for the troops.

Colbert arrived at the former Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory on Friday. For weeks, he's promoted the trip on Comedy Central's "The Colbert Report," but because the military urged caution, he has only trumpeted a vague trip to "the Persian Gulf."

The series of shows, each to be taped in front of an audience of about 450 troops, have been dubbed "Operation Iraqi Stephen: Going Commando." It's the first time anyone has broadcast from Iraq for a USO tour.

Though Colbert has often infused his mock pundit character into real events—the 2008 election, the 2006 White House Correspondents' Association dinner—his Iraq trip isn't a parody.

Both the character Colbert (silent "t") and the real Colbert (pronounced "t"), a Catholic family man, are ardent supporters of the troops. He has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Yellow Ribbon Fund (a charity that assists injured service members and their families), and he's a board member of DonorsChoose.org, which is raising money for the education of children of parents in the military.

AP

In this May 27, 2009 file photo, Stephen Colbert poses for a portrait in New York.

"Sometimes my character and I agree," Colbert said in an interview at his Manhattan office before leaving for Baghdad. "My character and I both know the Apostles' Creed and my character and I both think it's a shame that we're not talking about the troops anymore."

The trip came about when former Assistant Secretary of Defense Bing West suggested it after an interview last July on "The Colbert Report."

"He gave me this big ol' manly handshake and said, `If Gen. Petraeus invited you to do your show from Iraq, would you do it?'" recalled Colbert. "And I thought, `Oh, an improviser would say yes without thinking.'"

Colbert was in the midst of the hectic presidential campaign coverage, but once the election passed, he checked back on the invitation—this time with Gen. Raymond Odierno, the current commander of the forces in Iraq.

After months of planning, "The Colbert Report" is sending about 30 production staff (a third of the show's regular staff) to Iraq. The production restraints are steep, but Colbert is planning to do four shows, which will air Monday through Thursday next week at 11:30 p.m. EDT.

Colbert prepared for the trip by visiting Fort Jackson, S.C., for a very abbreviated basic training. He also drew on help from Tom Hanks to gather care packages for the troops. Guests on the shows will include Odierno and Barham Saleh, the deputy prime minister of Iraq.

Does he expect a tough crowd?

"I don't know," said Colbert. "It's got both things going for it. One is, they're hungry for entertainment. But also, they have a whole vocabulary of existence that I haven't experienced yet."

The shows' theme will be the declining attention paid to the war in Iraq. Colbert says he was spurred to make the trip when he noticed economic news coverage eclipsing reports from Baghdad.

Colbert said he feels a "special guilt" and responsibility to keep the soldiers' story alive because of the political nature of his program. The comedian is also guest editing next week's issue of Newsweek magazine. (A mock-up sits on his desk with the question "Remember Iraq?" splashed across the cover.)

"I don't want to forget that people are struggling through the things that I sometimes make jokes about," he said.

The 45-year-old comedian says he's not afraid of the danger of visiting Iraq ("I'm not a high value target"). Instead, he said he's only nervous about doing a good show for the troops.

"The show is always about me, it's always about the character," said Colbert. "What's different about this is, it's really about them. If they laugh, I'll be completely satisfied."

Carradine family seeks FBI, forensics expert help

AP

A copy of Thailand's Daily XPRESS newspaper reporting the obituary of actor David Carradine, is seen at a newsstand in Bangkok on Friday, June 5, 2009.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The family of David Carradine is asking the FBI and a private forensics expert to help investigate the "Kung Fu" actor's death, attorney Mark Geragos said Saturday, the same day Thai police said surveillance footage indicated no one had entered his hotel room before he died.

Carradine's brother Keith met Friday with the FBI and filed reports that could lead to the agency opening its own inquiry, said Geragos, who represents Keith Carradine. The family will also seek a private autopsy by famed forensic pathologist Dr. Michael Baden to determine whether another person could have been involved, Geragos said.

The actor's family hopes the body will arrive in Los Angeles by Monday, Geragos said, but he did not give specifics.

Geragos said the family intervened because of conflicting information about Carradine's death and a lack of direct information from Thai authorities.

"All we really know is not much more than what the public knows, and that's disturbing," Geragos said.

FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller on Saturday confirmed that Carradine's family had contacted the agency. Agents were checking with the FBI's legal attache at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok to see if Thai authorities "are requesting or would welcome FBI assistance in this matter." She said the FBI generally only gets involved in death investigations overseas if a crime is suspected.

David Carradine's body was discovered Thursday morning in his luxury suite by a chambermaid at Bangkok's Swissotel Nai Lert Park Hotel, said its general manager, Aurelio Giraudo. Carradine's family, friends and representatives have said they doubt the 72-year-old actor would have killed himself.

Police initially said Carradine's body was found "naked, hanging in a closet," causing them to suspect he had taken his own life. On Friday, however, police said the actor may have died from accidental suffocation or heart failure after revealing that he was found with a rope tied around his wrist, neck and genitals—leading to speculation that Carradine may have engaged in a dangerous form of sex play known as auto-erotic asphyxiation.

The results of an autopsy performed Friday in Bangkok were not expected for at least three weeks, said Dr. Nanthana Sirisap, director of Chulalongkorn Hospital's Autopsy Center. Nanthana said that was normal considering the unusual circumstances of the death.

Col. Somprasong Yenthuam, who is heading the investigation, said police have interviewed all staff at the hotel where Carradine was staying and reviewed surveillance footage outside his room. Based on that, they have found no evidence that anyone was in Carradine's room before he died which they said all but ruled out foul play.

The investigation continued Saturday, with police interviewing the crew of the film that Carradine was shooting in Bangkok.

Baden is a celebrity among forensic pathologists, appearing on a series of HBO specials highlighting some of the more than 20,000 autopsies he has performed. He frequently consults on high-profile cases, including conducting an autopsy on Drew Peterson's third wife and as a defense witness for Phil Spector during his first murder trial.

Baden is the chief forensic pathologist for the New York State Police and Geragos said he expects Baden's examination will clear up many unanswered questions.

"It's an amazing thing what a good pathologist can accomplish," Geragos said.

Actor James Franco pulls out of UCLA grad speech

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actor James Franco says he has dropped a plan to give a commencement speech at the University of California, Los Angeles, a move that may have been prompted by pressure from students.

Franco issued a statement saying he canceled his June 12 appearance because of conflicts with preproduction demands for his next film.

However, the "Pineapple Express" star had been the object of opposition from students who said he was not the right fit for the commencement speech.

"The problem with him as a speaker comes down to the fact he was a peer for so many of us," UCLA senior Erin Moore said. "He was in our class. He's not a role model. And he hasn't had time to accomplish anything with his degree."

Franco, 31, enrolled at UCLA in 1996 and graduated last year with a degree in creative writing. He would have been the youngest person and most recent graduate to deliver a commencement speech at UCLA.

Soon after the commencement announcement in March, Moore set up a Facebook page called "UCLA Students Against James Franco as Commencement Speaker." Hundreds joined, and Moore estimated about 80 percent of them are UCLA students.

A call to Franco's manager early Saturday was not immediately returned. A UCLA spokesman referred The Associated Press to Franco's statement, in which he expressed regret at not being able to give the speech.

UCLA announced on its Web site that Franco would be replaced by Linkin Park lead guitarist and UCLA alumnus Brad Delson, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in communication studies in 1999.

Franco is perhaps best known for his supporting role in the "Spider-Man" films.

He is preparing for the comedy "Your Highness," which is set to begin filming next month. Amanda Lundberg, a spokeswoman for the producer of the film, said Franco would be on the set in Ireland on June 12.

Actress Lori Petty charged with drunken driving

AP

La actriz Lori Petty llega al estreno de "Wanted" en el festival de cine de Los Angeles, en Los Angeles, en una imagen de archivo del 19 de junio de 2008.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lori Petty is facing two drunken driving charges.

A spokesman for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office says the 45-year-old "Tank Girl" actress was charged Friday with two misdemeanor counts of driving under the influence with injuries stemming from a May 30 arrest.

Petty was arrested after allegedly hitting a skateboarder with her car in the city's Venice Beach area.

Spokesman Frank Mateljan (mah-TELL'-jen) says the actress was also charged with driving without proof of insurance. She is set to be arraigned June 25.

Petty's film credits include "Point Break," "Tank Girl" and "A League of Their Own." It could not immediately be determined Friday whether Petty retains a lawyer or professional representative.

Guilt haunts victim of rape following attacker's suicide

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: When I was 15, I was raped by a family friend. I did what I thought was the right thing to do and told my parents. The man was arrested, and DNA tests proved everything. Charges were pressed.

I thought everything was going to be OK, but a few days before the court proceedings were to begin, my rapist killed himself. Now his family harasses my family. They claim he was innocent and I was bent on ruining his life.

Abby, people often ask me if I am "relieved" that he committed suicide. I feel terrible about it, and I don't know how to respond to these comments.

BLAMING MYSELF OUT WEST

DEAR BLAMING YOURSELF: When someone commits suicide, it is not unusual for the survivors to feel—among other things—overwhelming guilt. You did the right thing by telling your parents about the assault. Your family did the right thing in pressing charges. Obviously your rapist was very disturbed, and you are in no way responsible for his death. The police should be notified about the harassment from his family.

When someone asks if you are "relieved" that the rapist is dead, you are not obliged to answer. You can let the question hang in the air, or turn it back on the person by asking, "How would you feel?" and let him or her ramble on.

I hope you received psychological counseling after you were raped, because it should have helped you to recognize that you are not responsible for anything that has happened. However, because you are blaming yourself, it's time to schedule a few sessions with a therapist.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am 23 and being married in the fall. I couldn't be more excited. I have started shopping for a wedding dress, and I would like to wear a pure white one on my special day. However, I am not a virgin, and I know the original significance of brides wearing white was to declare their virginity.

Is this still true today, or is it not so important anymore? I don't want to offend anyone. (I think most of the guests we will be inviting know my fiance and I live together, so they can assume that I am not a virgin.) I could always wear an ivory dress, but I would really prefer a white one. What do you think?

WONDERING IN WASHINGTON

DEAR WONDERING: If your dream dress is white, then that's what you should wear.

According to Emily Post: "During the 20th century, white came to signify joy rather than virginity (though traditionalists may hold to the older symbolism) and is now considered appropriate for all brides, including those marrying again and those who are pregnant at the time of the wedding."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I ride the bus to and from work every day, and I have had it "up to here" with people who conduct loud conversations on their cell phones. I have learned far more than I ever wanted to about medical problems, restraining orders, relationships that are falling apart, etc. I would love to make eye contact and give them "the look," but these folks are too absorbed in what they are saying to even glance in my direction.

What surprises me most is that the average age of a lot of them is in their 40s. I'm in my early 20s, but I know that not only is their behavior rude, but that sharing personal information with a group of strangers is potentially dangerous.

Can you suggest a way to deal with this problem without having to wear earplugs?

MINNEAPOLIS COMMUTER

DEAR MINNEAPOLIS COMMUTER: Yes, get up and move your seat.

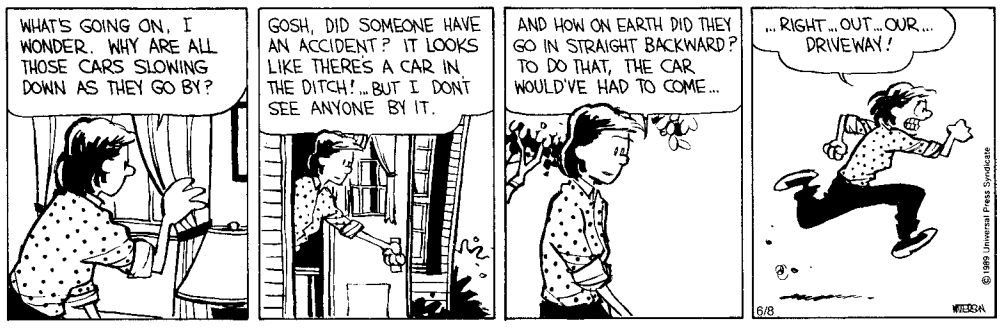
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT'S GOING ON, I WONDER. WHY ARE ALL THOSE CARS SLOWING DOWN AS THEY GO BY?
GOSH, DID SOMEONE HAVE AN ACCIDENT? IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A CAR IN THE DITCH!... BUT I DON'T SEE ANYONE BY IT.
AND HOW ON EARTH DID THEY GO IN STRAIGHT BACKWARD? TO DO THAT, THE CAR WOULD'VE HAD TO COME...
...RIGHT...OUT...OUR... DRIVEWAY!
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6/8

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

LAURA, AM I TOO OLD TO WEAR A HOCKEY JERSEY?
UMM...
BECAUSE IT MAKES ME FEEL YOUNG WHEN I WEAR ONE.
WELL...
AND IT BRINGS BACK A LOT OF MEMORIES OF MY YOUTH.
SURE, BUT...
THANKS, HONEY. I APPRECIATE THAT.
WHOEVER SAID "SOMETIMES LISTENING IS THE BEST SUPPORT" WAS RIGHT.
www.gocomics.com
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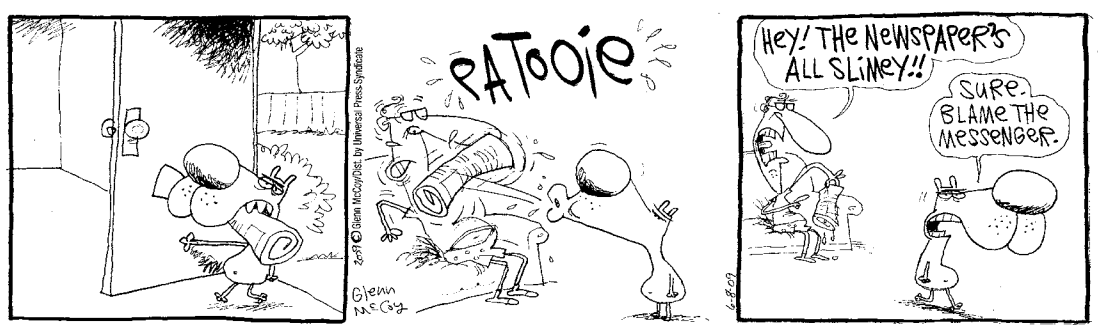
8/9

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

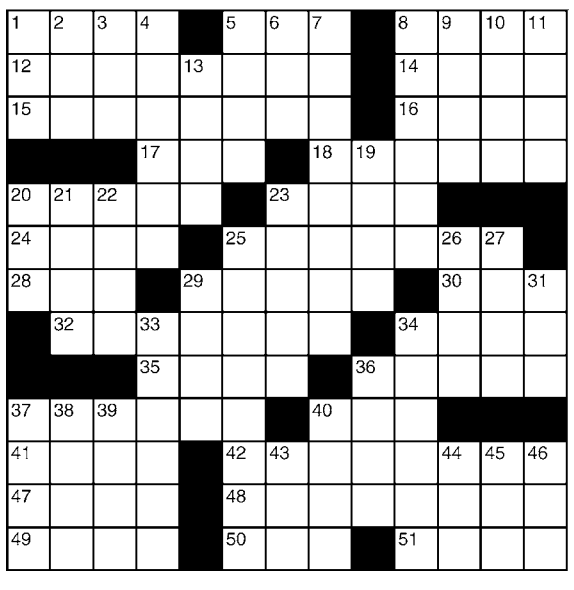
ACROSS
1 Mid-month date
5 Get on
8 Tranquil
12 Ships' warning noises
14 Solo by Sills
15 Time saver
16 Encounter
17 "Monty Python" opener
18 Type of monkey
20 String quartet member
23 Acerbic
24 — nitrate
25 Beauty contest, e.g.
28 Play on words
29 Wise ones
30 Dine
32 Frosty, for one
34 Long skirt
35 Knocks
36 Goose-bump-inducing
37 Distance
40 Pismire
41 Neighbor-hood
42 Classical music lover
47 Carriage
48 Usual
49 Hotel furniture
50 Marble type
51 Needing crutches

DOWN
1 Condi-tions
2 Homer's interjec-tion
3 Id counter-part
4 Piercing
5 Curved lines
6 Wilde-beest
7 Female hormone
8 Paparaz-zi's need
9 War god
10 Stead
11 Gym-nasts' surfaces
13 "Beetle Bailey" dog
19 Colors
20 Upper limit
21 Ostriches' kin
22 Singer Loretta
23 Long stories
25 Brochure
26 Approach
27 Cab
29 Bat a gnat
31 Dead heat
33 Trans-planted body parts
34 Kind of alcohol
36 MIT grad, maybe
37 Easter entree
38 Ontario neighbor
39 Require
40 From the top
43 Eggs
44 Okla-homa city
45 "— the Walrus"
46 Reuben bread

Solution time: 24 mins.

R	O	B	S	■	D	O	L	E	■	A	C	E
I	R	A	Q	■	E	D	I	T	■	L	O	P
M	E	N	U	■	S	E	T	H	■	T	O	E
S	O	D	A	■	I	S	M	■	R	O	T	E
■	■	■	R	A	G	■	U	F	O	■	■	■
M	O	D	E	R	N	■	S	L	U	I	C	E
A	N	O	D	E	■	■	■	I	N	C	A	S
S	E	C	O	N	D	■	I	N	D	E	N	T
■	■	■	F	A	R	■	A	G	E	■	■	■
J	E	F	F	■	O	H	M	■	D	E	M	O
A	D	E	■	O	W	E	S	■	O	V	A	L
K	E	N	■	A	S	I	A	■	F	I	L	L
E	N	D	■	T	E	R	M	■	F	L	E	A

Saturday's answer 6-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kanye West, 32; Keenen Ivory Wayans, 51; Boz Scaggs, 65; Joan Rivers, 76

Happy Birthday: The less time you waste pondering and the more time you spend making your dreams come true, the more accomplished you will become. Learning to deal with matters swiftly will turn you into the leader you deserve to be. You will be remembered for what you do to make a difference. Your numbers are 5, 15, 17, 27, 36, 44, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Plan a surprise for someone you care for. Visiting a friend or taking on the responsibility of a project that interests you will keep you busy and inspire you to strive for more. Socialize with people who work in the same industry. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may be feeling pressured by someone you aren't sure you want in your life. Don't be bashful—speak your mind and resolve issues that are holding you back. Don't give in; follow your lifelong dreams. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Get whatever is bothering you out into the open. You can make others understand your position if you are clear about where you are heading and why. A chance to move forward with one of your ideas must be given priority. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let someone else's change of plans derail what you have scheduled. Follow your own path. Don't let emotional matters conflict with your production or your ability to get a job done. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can have some fun but don't let it cost you financially. This is not the time to gamble or to take a risk on someone or something that could lead to difficult times. Focus on plans that can bring in cash. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You have to set emotions aside and look at the facts if you want to make a good decision. You have the potential to come out on top if you remain practical and refuse to get caught up in someone else's unrealistic scheme. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Open up to suggestions and consider taking a trip that will help you move forward with obtaining knowledge valuable for your future. Expanding your interests as well as your friendships will pay off quickly. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Look back at the mistakes you have made in the past and you will avoid a repeat performance. Rethink the way you handle others and be firmer about getting what you want and what you are willing to give up to get it. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Everything will seem out of reach or up in the air if you haven't built a solid base. Success can come and go in an instant and, if you are not on top of the possibilities, you will lose ground to someone who is. Perfection is a must. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your need and desire to get something done and done right will lead to success. Make some alterations at home. Speak up if you think someone is offering something that isn't feasible. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Your heart and emotions may get you into trouble. Look at the practical side of any offer or challenge being made. Take the help being offered. Make some changes to your household. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Erratic behavior will not help your cause or lead to advancement. Hold your thoughts, especially if they will make you look indecisive or difficult to get along with. Avoid change based on false information or a poorly thought out plan. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You wait and watch until you are ready to execute your plans. You are cautious but not afraid to make a change, and loving but willing to reprimand anyone who gets out of line.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1			8			3	
4			7		1			9
		6	4		3	8		
	9	8				4	2	
2				9				6
	6	7				1	9	
		9	8		7	3		
3			9		5			1
	7			3			6	

Difficulty Level ★ 6/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	8	2	9	4	6	7	1	3
6	1	3	8	7	2	5	4	9
9	7	4	3	5	1	6	8	2
8	5	7	2	1	3	9	6	4
3	4	9	6	8	7	2	5	1
1	2	6	4	9	5	3	7	8
7	9	1	5	3	4	8	2	6
2	3	5	1	6	8	4	9	7
4	6	8	7	2	9	1	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STAIRMASTER **Solution: 9 letters**

A	B	M	I	L	C	I	T	E	L	H	T	A	U	D
E	F	C	O	M	M	E	R	C	I	A	L	L	R	E
E	N	F	E	T	A	T	O	R	G	T	A	A	E	N
L	G	A	O	R	I	X	E	R	E	D	W	C	T	O
E	R	D	U	R	E	O	A	R	E	K	O	I	H	I
C	S	R	I	T	D	V	N	P	C	C	R	T	A	T
T	P	P	E	R	I	A	O	A	C	O	K	P	N	I
R	O	I	E	T	T	L	B	L	L	L	O	I	E	D
O	R	O	R	E	E	R	U	L	V	A	U	L	F	N
N	T	O	L	G	D	M	A	S	E	I	T	L	I	O
I	N	E	L	O	S	N	O	C	G	T	N	E	T	C
C	T	E	L	T	N	U	A	G	E	E	U	G	N	E
L	S	I	M	U	L	A	T	O	R	I	L	L	E	R
U	S	P	O	T	T	S	Y	A	W	E	D	I	S	E
B	R	A	K	E	S	L	L	I	M	P	E	T	S	A

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

HISTORY

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It's a bird who wins Belmont—Summer Bird!

NEW YORK (AP)—This was a Belmont for the Birds. It was Summer Bird, not Mine That Bird and jockey Calvin Borel, who came roaring down the long stretch and won the final jewel of the Triple Crown on Saturday.

For a brief moment on the turn for home, Borel looked like a winner. His tough little gelding took the lead, and even Borel believed his victory guarantee was assured.

"I thought I was home free," he said, "but the other horses galloped by."

They sure did.

With the crowd of 52,861 cheering on the leaders in the stretch, Mine That Bird passed Dunkirk. But it was Summer Bird who pulled away from them both for a 2 3/4-length victory, with Dunkirk second and Mine That Bird a neck back in third in the field of 10 3-year-olds

The upset ended Borel's bid to become the first jockey to win a personal Triple Crown, and he failed to deliver on a guarantee of victory in the Belmont Stakes. Borel won the Kentucky Derby aboard Mine That Bird, then took the Preakness with the filly Rachel Alexandra.

Summer Bird, sent off at 11-1 odds, gave jockey Kent Desormeaux a Belmont victory he desperately wanted.

"I hope from now on we'll talk about winning one," Desormeaux said.

Last year, he won the Derby and Preakness aboard Big Brown, only to have to pull up the colt in the Belmont. And in 1998, he brought Real Quiet into the Belmont for a Triple try only to get beat by Victory Gallop by a nose in a heartbreaking defeat.

Charitable Man was fourth Saturday, followed by Luv Gov, Flying Private, Brave Victory, Mr. Hot Stuff, Chocolate Candy and Miner's Escape.

There was an inquiry filed by Charitable Man's jockey Alan Garcia against Dunkirk for interference, but it was disallowed by the racing stewards.

The winning time for the 1 1/2 miles was 2:27.54.

The Triple Crown season ended the way it started—with an upset. Mine That Bird was all but discounted in the Derby, but won at 50-1 odds—and his 6 3/4-length winning margin was the largest in 63 years. Two weeks later, Borel was obligated to ride Rachel Alexandra in the Preakness for new owner Jess Jackson, and the filly beat Mine That Bird by a length. Jackson said last week Rachel Alexandra would be given a rest and not run in the Belmont.

In the Belmont, Mine That Bird was sent off as the 6-5 favorite, but he seemed a bit more frisky than usual in the paddock and on the walk through the tunnel to the track. And he was a little too eager in the race, pulling Borel into contention sooner than anyone expected.

"He might have been a hair higher today coming in here, just a little more amped up," Mine That Bird trainer Chip Woolley said, "but overall he was the same horse I led up in the Derby. He ran a great race and just got beat, and you have to accept that and go on."

Summer Bird, meanwhile, looked almost regal before the start. The chestnut son of 2004 Belmont winner Birdstone—yes, the same sire as Mine That Bird—took the rail route usually the trademark of a Borel ride before breaking outside and into the clear.

"The colt broke like a rocket," Desormeaux said. "He absolutely dragged me around the race track. I had an armchair ride until I found some room. I found room."

Summer Bird won the Belmont in just his fifth career start. Owned by Drs. Kalarikkal and Vilasini Jayaraman, the colt did not run as a 2-year-old. In his third start, he was a closing third in the Arkansas Derby and came back and was a closing sixth in the Derby—13 lengths behind Mine That Bird.

Summer Bird, trained by the recently licensed Tim Ice, returned $25.80. $9.30 and $4.70. Dunkirk paid $5.40 and $3.60, and Mine That Bird returned $2.60 to show.

Ice seemed stunned by his colt's accomplishment, which came on the trainer's 35th birthday. As he walked into the postrace news conference, he was serenaded with a rendition of "Happy Birthday."

"Right now it's just unexplainable," he said. "If my career goes nowhere from here, I've got a Belmont win."

Once again, the "Test of the Champion," prevented a little Triple Crown history. While a Triple Crown wasn't on the line for a horse, Borel was certain he'd pull off an unprecedented Triple of his own.

But for now, the Belmont remains a race usually reserved for long shots. The favorite has won only six of the last 30 runnings of the longest and most grueling of the Triple Crown races.

"He was tired. He was used, but he looked all right," Woolley said. "We're a little down, disappointed right now. He ran a great race. It's been a lot of fun. We'll give him a good eight weeks off and let him freshen up."

AP

Jockey Kent Desormeaux rides Summer Bird to win the 141st running of the Belmont Stakes horse race at Belmont Park, Saturday, June 6, 2009, in Elmont, N.Y.

Bettencourt gets his shot at Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—For most of a warm and wacky Saturday afternoon at the Memorial, the leaderboard was filled with a "Who's Who" of this golfing generation, five players with a combined 20 majors, 121 PGA Tour victories and 19 World Golf Championships.

Tiger Woods and Ernie Els. Davis Love III, Geoff Ogilvy and Jim Furyk.

It ended with a "Who's That?"

Matt Bettencourt, a 34-year-old rookie who had never played a PGA Tour event until this year, steadied himself during some nervous moments on the super slick greens of Muirfield Village for a 4-under 68 to share the lead with two-time tour winner Mark Wilson (69).

Bettencourt, who has yet to finish in the top 20 and has missed more cuts than he has made, wasn't expecting to be atop the leaderboard at the tournament Jack Nicklaus created.

The guys chasing him? That was no surprise at all.

"The field is so strong here," Bettencourt said. "Mr. Nicklaus asks you to play, you're going to play. If you expect to win, you're going to have to beat the best. And the best are up there."

No one played better than Ogilvy, who was in a tie for 57th and nine shots behind until he turned in a tournament-best 63 as the leaders were finishing up their lunch. He was atop the leaderboard for much of the day until finishing two shots behind.

Woods, a three-time winner of the Memorial, made his move on the back nine with a 5-wood into 6 feet for an eagle. Slowed by a careless three-putt bogey on the 17th, he had to settle for a 68 and was four shots behind.

Furyk was up-and-down, as were most players, until he steadied himself down the stretch and scratched out a 71, putting him one shot behind with Jonathan Byrd, who also had a 71.

Love chipped in for birdie on the 18th for a 69 and was tied for fifth with Ogilvy. Els was poised to make a move until he chopped up the par-5 15th and took double bogey, putting him in the group at 207 with Woods.

Don't get the idea that Bettencourt or Wilson, who won an opposite-field event in Mexico this year, are rattled at the moment.

"If I take care of what I do ... I will have a great chance of winning," Wilson said. "If I start thing about what everyone else is doing around me and, 'Oh my gosh, that guy's all got these major championships, he should win this, I shouldn't,' then you bet I'm going to lose. That's the big challenge tomorrow."

But not even Woods was taking anything for granted at Muirfield Village, where the greens were as fast as any on tour this year.

"I have to play well," he said. "That's the difference between being out front and trailing."

Bettencourt is a true rookie, having never played a PGA Tour event until this year. He earned his card by winning the Nationwide Tour money list, and it's a wonder he's even on any tour. The California native had intentions of a career in baseball until hurting his arm, and he didn't start playing competitive golf until after college.

Even during his seven years in the minor leagues of golf, he considered finding a new career path. But he stuck it out, made the big leagues, and gave himself a chance to prove he belongs.

"It hasn't gone as I'd hoped, but I've always stayed positive," he said of his rookie season. "I believe in myself and my ability to play and to compete against the world's best."

Wilson, who won in Mexico earlier this year when the world's best players were at a World Golf Championship, didn't figure to be in the mix when he came up short of the green on his first three holes and quickly fell behind with bogeys. He got those shots back by the turn, overcame a blunder on the tricky 14th hole with consecutive birdies and wound up in a share of the lead.

A victory for Wilson would give him the day off Monday from 36-hole U.S. Open qualifying, because it would be his second PGA Tour victory since the U.S. Open last year.

That exemption also applies to Love, who won at Disney at the end of last year. That was the furthest from his mind, however. Love has been on the bubble for majors all year and decided to concern himself only with winning a tournament that has eluded him for two decades.

"I said going into the tournament that I'm playing for this week," Love said. "I want to win."

About the only guy who didn't go backward was Ogilvy, who was disgusted with himself Friday when he shot 74. That gave him an early tee time Saturday, which worked in his favor. The greens were as pure as can be, Ogilvy was in a good frame of mind, and it helped by sticking his approach on the first hole about a foot from the cup.

He kept at it all day, zooming up the leaderboard, taking the early lead by holing out a bunker shot.

"I guess the longer you play on tour, the more you realize that you're probably going to have a lot more 74s than you're going to have 63s," Ogilvy said.

Red Sox crush Rangers in AL showdown

BOSTON (AP)— Boston pitcher Jon Lester retired the first 19 batters he faced and finished with a two-hitter, setting up the Red Sox 8-1 win over the Texas Rangers in a clash of American League divisional leaders on Saturday.

Lester was on course for a perfect game until a double with one out in the seventh inning. He struck out 11 in his third career complete game.

David Oritz, mired in a season-long slump, homered for just the second time this season as Boston stayed half a game ahead of New York in the AL East.

Rays 9, Yankees 7

In New York, Joe Dillon hit a tie-breaking single in the ninth inning as Tampa Bay snatched a tight win over New York.

The AL champion Rays overcome four errors, which doubled their previous season high. Three were throwing errors by All-Star catcher Dioner Navarro.

Tigers 2, Angels 1

In Detroit, pitcher Edwin Jackson threw a four-hitter for his second career complete game to help Detroit edge Los Angeles and end a four-game losing skid.

Jackson improved to 5-1 with a 0.76 ERA in his past six starts. He struck out five and walked just one, throwing 109 pitches.

Mariners 2, Twins 1

In Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. drove in Ichiro Suzuki with a two-out double in the eighth, leading Seattle to a narrow victory over Minnesota.

A day after his club-record 27-game hitting streak ended, Suzuki went 3-for-4 against the Twins, including a two-out RBI double in the fifth that tied it 1-1.

Royals 6, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, pitcher Luke Hochevar worked a season-high 6 2-3 innings as Kansas City snapped a run of eight straight losses by downing Toronto.

Willie Bloomquist hit a three-run triple for the Royals.

White Sox 4, Indians 2

In Chicago, Josh Fields homered to help lift Chicago over Cleveland and end the White Sox four-game skid.

A sacrifice fly in the first inning ended Chicago's scoreless drought at 23 innings.

Chicago pitcher Gavin Floyd allowed just one earned run in 6 2-3 innings, striking out seven and walking one.

Athletics 9, Orioles 4

In Oakland, California, Jason Giambi hit a three-run double to propel Oakland to victory over Baltimore and a fifth win on the trot.

The A's first seven hits were all doubles, with two of them contributing to a four-run fourth inning. They ended up with eight doubles, matching an Oakland record.

Dodgers 3, Phillies 2

At Los Angeles, Brad Lidge gave up a tying home run to pinch-hitter Rafael Furcal with one out in the ninth inning for his second blown save in less than 24 hours, and Andre Ethier hit his second homer of the game with two out in the 12th to give the Los Angeles Dodgers a victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Ethier, who had a game-ending two-run double off Lidge in the ninth inning of Friday night's 4-3 win, sent a full-count offering from Chad Durbin (1-2) over the center-field fence to complete his fourth career multihomer game. In the fourth, he drove a 1-2 pitch into the right-field pavilion off Joe Blanton.

Brewers 3, Braves 0

At Atlanta, Prince Fielder's third two-homer game of the season gave Milwaukee all the offense they needed for a win over the punchless Braves.

Jeff Suppan (4-4) gave up six hits in 5 1-3 innings as the Brewers took their second straight shutout win over Atlanta and extended the Braves' streak of scoreless innings to 22. The Braves have lost three straight.

Nationals 7, Mets 1

At Washington, John Lannan threw his first career complete game to lead the Nationals over New York.

Lannan (3-5) allowed an unearned run and four hits, facing the minimum number of batters through the first seven innings. He was helped out by a franchise-record-tying five double plays—two 6-4-3s, two 4-6-3s and a head-shaking 9-3-6 that took a while to sort out.

Rockies 10, Cardinals 1

At St. Louis, Ian Stewart homered twice and matched a career high with five RBIs, and Aaron Cook beat the Cardinals for the first time.

Stewart hit a three-run shot to right on a full count in the fourth and a two-run shot to left-center on a 2-0 pitch in the sixth, both off Todd Wellemeyer (5-6).

Pirates 6, Astros 4

At Houston, Paul Maholm pitched seven innings and drove in a run with an infield single, leading Pittsburgh over the Astros.

Jack Wilson doubled twice and drove in a run and Andrew McCutchen delivered a big two-run single for the Pirates, who snapped a five-game losing streak at Minute Maid Park. Adam LaRoche and Andy LaRoche each had two hits and an RBI.

Marlins 5, Giants 4

At Miami, Hanley Ramirez hit two of Florida's five doubles, leading Andrew Miller and the Marlins over the Giants.

Down 5-2, the Giants loaded the bases in the ninth against closer Matt Lindstrom. Reliever Leo Nunez gave up Aaron Rowand's two-run single before striking out Edgar Renteria to end it.

AP

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Jon Lester, right, is congratulated by teammate David Ortiz after pitching a complete two-hit baseball game against the Texas Ranger at Fenway Park in Boston, Saturday, June 6, 2009.

Reds 4, Cubs 3, 11 innings

At Cincinnati, Jay Bruce scored from third base in the 11th inning when Mike Fontenot's throw home was high, giving the Reds a win over the Cubs.

Sean Marshall (3-5) walked Bruce to lead off the 11th. Bruce went to second on a wild pitch and advanced to third on Gonzalez's sacrifice. After an intentional walk to Ryan Hanigan, pinch-hitter Adam Rosales hit a chopper to Fontenot, the third baseman. His throw to catcher Geovany Soto was high, allowing Bruce to score the winning run on the Rosales' RBI fielder's choice.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 4

At San Diego, Tony Gwynn Jr. reached base a career-high five times and scored the go-ahead run in the six-run sixth inning to help the Padres snap a four-game losing streak.

Magic confident of better outing in Game 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Dwight Howard hasn't been surprised by anything during his first trip to the NBA finals. It's all seemed so familiar to Orlando's center, like he's been here before.

If it wasn't June, it would be like any other game.

Sure, there's more media. There's "that big trophy everywhere you look." There's a stenographer sitting in on the press conferences.

"That's new," Howard noted. "Other than that, it's just basketball."

And as has been the case most of this season, the Magic appear to be in trouble.

Down 1-0 to the Los Angeles Lakers after being blown out 100-75 in Game 1, the Magic spent part of Friday watching film of their pathetic return to the finals after a 14-year hiatus. They got lit up by Kobe Bryant, who scored 40 points, and Howard and Orlando's other big men were dominated on the boards by the Lakers' frontline, which posted a 55-41 advantage in rebounding.

"Embarrassing," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy snorted.

Orlando was out of its league.

Bryant scored almost at will, punctuating each bucket by extending his lower jaw to show his lower teeth—a menacing look underscoring the self-proclaimed Black Mamba's drive at winning his fourth title. The Magic also hurt themselves by shooting 30 percent and missing open shots, and Howard was a non-factor on offense with 12 points and only one field goal, a 7-foot hook shot in the game's first two minutes.

The NBA's leading dunker didn't dunk. He didn't dominate. He didn't do diddly.

Howard knows he and his teammates have to do much more in Game 2 on Sunday night.

"We just didn't have any energy or effort," Howard said. "We didn't box out, all the little things. We can't control Kobe scoring 40 points, but we can control boxing out, getting loose balls, stuff like that, and we didn't do that. We have to come out with a better effort."

Howard's ineffectiveness was the main topic of conversation at Friday's media gathering. One reporter wondered if the sleeve on his arm may have affected his shot.

"Man, I just wear the sleeve because I like how it looks," Howard said, shaking his head in disbelief at the query. "It had nothing to do with making shots or anything. I started wearing it in practice, it felt good one day, and I thought, 'Man, I should wear this in the game.' It might make my shot look better."

Being in a hole is nothing new to the resilient Magic, it's where they've lived most of the season.

They made it to the finals despite losing All-Star guard Jameer Nelson for 42 games because of a shoulder injury, and they came from behind against Philadelphia and Boston to win previous series this postseason. Against Cleveland in the Eastern Conference finals, the Magic shot their way back from impossible deficits.

They're down again, not out.

"It's just one game," said forward Hedo Turkoglu, who went just 3-of-11 from the floor. "It's a long series. We've got a couple days to work on some things. We know how good we are, and we know what we need to do to win."

A good place to start would be getting Howard more involved on offense.

Nothing came easy for him in Game 1. Like paparazzi swarming outside a nightclub for a magazine cover photo, the Lakers' forwards and centers were everywhere he turned. Andrew Bynum, Pau Gasol and Lamar Odom pushed him, prodded him, poked him.

Superman's cape got torn to shreds.

And when Howard got the ball deep in the lane, one of Los Angeles' guards would dive down on a double team and force him to pick it up. By the time he passed out from inside to an open teammate on the perimeter, the lengthy Lakers were able to recover and contest.

"They're going to make it tough to get Dwight rolling," Van Gundy said. "We got him the ball a lot, but they're always coming with another guy."

Van Gundy admitted he made a mistake in playing Nelson for the entire second quarter. In his first action since Groundhog Day, Nelson sparked the Magic early but then tired and faded. Van Gundy still plans to use him off the bench in Game 2, but will monitor his minutes more closely.

The Lakers aren't taking anything for granted. They may have won Game 1 without breaking a sweat, but their demeanor remained very businesslike during Friday's workout.

Bryant, whose kids have been calling him "Grumpy" because of his sour mood of late at home, remained stone faced. He answered questions with short, measured responses and only cracked a smile once.

Does he remember the Lakers' attitude before the finals last season?

"No," he said.

Is he driven to win a title to prove anything to LeBron James and Shaquille O'Neal?

"Not at all," he said.

So why the frosty attitude?

"I'm just focused and ready to go," he said. "I've been pacing myself all year waiting for these playoffs to come around. The table is set."

KUZNETSOVA

From Page 28

quarterfinals.

More dispiriting to Safina, perhaps, was Kuznetsova's defense.

Time and time again, Safina—sister of two-time major champion Marat Safin—delivered a hard, well-placed shot. And time and time again, Kuznetsova scrambled to get the ball over the net. If the champion seems to have a cyclist's strong legs, it's because she does: Kuznetsova's father coached her mother to six world championships and her brother to an Olympic silver medal in that sport.

On a cloudy afternoon with the temperature in the low 50s, Kuznetsova also delighted spectators by showing off her soccer skills, juggling a tennis ball off her right foot and knee for several seconds. Her best work came with her racket, and she broke back at love to make it 1-all, then again to go ahead 5-3. Safina began that eighth game with a double-fault and rolled her eyes. As mistakes accumulated, she muttered to herself or smacked her left palm with her racket.

On match point, Safina's second serve hit the net tape and popped up, sailing beyond the doubles alley.

"I was, like, 'Oh, my God. Double-fault,'" Kuznetsova said.

When Kuznetsova would allow herself to imagine winning the French Open, she always pictured herself dropping to the clay in joy. But the anticlimactic way this one ended didn't call for such a celebration. Instead, Kuznetsova simply turned to make eye contact with her coach and supporters in the stands, then walked to the net for a handshake and kisses on the cheek.

At the other end of the court, Safina covered her forehead with her left hand—disbelief written all over her face—then spiked her racket.

"I was a little bit desperate on the court," said Safina, who appeared to be fighting tears late in the match and during the on-court trophy presentation. "Didn't stay tough mentally."

Kuznetsova did, which hasn't always been the case. Aside from her U.S. Open championship, also in an all-Russian final, Kuznetsova has her own history of faltering at key moments: She entered Saturday 10-18 in tournament finals.

The French Open, in particular, was the site of trouble. In 2004, Kuznetsova held a match point in the fourth round before losing. The next year, in the same round, Kuznetsova led 5-3 in the third set and held two match points before losing. And in 2007, Kuznetsova lost the final at Roland Garros to Justine Henin in straight sets.

Running through that list of setbacks, Kuznetsova noted one significant difference about Saturday.

"I was calm," she said. "It was similar feeling when I won the U.S. Open. I cannot explain it."

Her coach, Larisa Savchenko, surmised that maybe three difficult, three-set matches before the final—against No. 12 Agnieszka Radwanska, then Williams, then No. 30 Samantha Stosur—helped settle down Kuznetsova.

"Really," Kuznetsova insisted after accepting the champion's trophy from six-time French Open winner Steffi Graf, "I didn't expect it to happen this year."

Safina was the one who was supposed to finally make her breakthrough after losing in the finals at last year's French Open and this year's Australian Open. Since rising to No. 1 in the rankings in April, Safina had won 20 of 21 matches, including 16 in a row.

The only woman to beat her in that span? Kuznetsova.

There are those—including Williams and Henin—who have wondered whether Safina deserves to be No. 1 if she hasn't won a major. Safina insisted the only pressure she felt came from within.

"I really wanted to win," she said. "I just didn't handle it."

About a decade ago, at age 12 or 13, Svetlana living in St. Petersburg, Dinara in Moscow, they first played each other. Dinara won in a rout. Svetlana's highlight was asking her opponent's older—and better-known—brother, Marat, for an autograph.

Oh, how far Kuznetsova's come.

"Didn't happen just by luck," she said. "To have two Grand Slam trophies - big, you know."

SAIPAN

From Page 28

Saipan Senior All-Stars turned on the heat in the fourth inning, scoring six runs, to take a commanding 9-0 lead.

First baseman Develle Maui broke Tinian's silence at the bottom of the sixth, hitting a two-run single. He later reached home plate on a Tom Agulto wild pitch, but Tinian failed to extend the game when the visitors' first three batters were thrown out. Dennis Borja was beaten to first, Nokki Saralu struck out Derek Hofschneider, and Joel Santos flied out to center.

MAJORS
Saipan 16, Rota 0

The fastest played finals in the tournament was between Saipan and Rota Major All-Stars with the former cruising to a 16-0 win after only three and a half innings.

The host advanced to the finals after a 2-0 record in the round-robin tournament and Rota gained the second finals seat after a 1-1 slate. Rota defeated Tinian, 6-2, after losing to Saipan, 3-16. Saipan downed Tinian, 11-1.

After two innings, it seemed Rota was out to give Saipan a tough fight, as the host led by only two, 2-0. Jose Lizama scored at the bottom of the first on a stolen base, while Jeremy Lizama reached home plate on a Rota error.

The bottom of the third was a nightmare for Rota. The visitors committed one error after another, allowing Saipan to score eight of its 14 runs in that inning on Rota's miscues.

Jeremy Lizama finished the job at the top of the fourth, striking out two and catching a fly ball.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Left photo shows Saipan Senior All-Stars' Nokki Saralu pitching against Tinian at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, while Saipan Major All-Stars' Jose Lizama, right, throws to first base during their game against Rota in the 2009 CNMI District Tournament last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

KNECHT

From Page 28

the ball in for an "own goal" credited to MP United.

Earlier in the first half, Calvin Yan scored, giving IFC a 1-0 halftime lead.

The boys' U18 title match was played in two 25-minute halves.

Four teams battled for the U18 title with IFC advancing to the title game after beating Paire Football Club. MP United downed Matansa Football Club in the other playoff game. Paire settled for third after prevailing over Matansa in the consolation game.

In the girls' U18 division, Paire bested Matansa and MPU.

The girls finals had a different format with all three teams playing in a round-robin tournament. A win gets a team three points, one for a draw, and none for a loss. Paire ended up with four points to claim the girls' U18 crown.

Paire and MP United received perpetual trophies during the awards ceremony, while Paire took home the Sportsmanship Award.

OLYMPIC

From Page 28

the onset of the WNBA in 1997, Timms became one of the first imports to be selected to play in the inaugural season. Placed with the Phoenix Mercury, she played in the WNBA Finals in 1998, losing to the Houston Comets. She served as co-captain of the team for five years. Timms played in the first ever WNBA All Star Team for the West in 1998, where she helped lead the West to their first All Star victory. She also starred in the Australian WNBL for 16 years, being selected to six all-star teams, winning five championships, and being selected as Player of the Year four times.

Timms is a member of the Australian Sports Hall of Fame, the Basketball Australia Hall of Fame, and the United States Basketball Hall of Fame**.**

Since retiring as a player, Timms has stayed with the game, both as a broadcaster and as a coach, in Phoenix as well as Australia. In addition to her duties with the WNBL and Basketball Australia, Timms also runs a professional coaching business which provides opportunities for the youth of today to work with one of the legends of the game.

From her home in Melbourne, Timms said, "I am extremely honored and excited to be making the trip to Saipan. This will be my first trip as a coach with an Australian National Team and this has been a dream of mine since retiring as a player in 2001. I imagine representing Australia as a coach (assistant) is going to be right up there with the same emotion that surrounded my first ever game for Australia as a junior. I am really looking forward to seeing what other talent is out there at this age level throughout Oceania and just as excited to meet and experience the Saipan people. I have traveled to hundreds of countries and islands around the world, but I have never been to Saipan. I am absolutely thrilled to get a chance to see this wonderful island and experience their wonderful culture. I am sure all players and their staff are as excited about the upcoming Oceania Tournament as I am, as they have the rare and privileged opportunity to represent their countries and forge friendships for years to come."

Timms was born June 28, 1965 in Melbourne, Victoria, and commenced playing basketball in the Melbourne area. During her stunning 16-year career, Timms would become the "face" of women's basketball in Australia, playing leadership roles with all of the clubs she joined. Michele is without doubt one of Australia's greatest basketball players in history, male or female.

The Oceania Tournament will be held on Saipan from June 21 to June 26. Australia and New Zealand, along with Pacific basketball powerhouses New Caledonia and Guam, will send national men's and women's teams to compete with the CNMI's best.

Gold sponsors for the tournament include Tan Holdings, the Joeten Charitable Foundation, Shell Marianas, and IT&E.

BANMI president Elias Rangamar expressed his appreciation to all of the official sponsors and other contributors, especially the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Saipan Legislative Delegation, and Saipan Grand Hotel. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	23	.589	—
New York	32	23	.582	1/2
Toronto	31	27	.534	3
Tampa Bay	29	28	.509	4 1/2
Baltimore	24	32	.429	9

Central Division

Detroit	29	25	.537	—
Minnesota	28	29	.491	2 1/2
Chicago	26	29	.473	3 1/2
Kansas City	24	31	.436	5 1/2
Cleveland	24	34	.414	7

West Division

Texas	32	23	.582	—
Los Angeles	28	26	.519	3 1/2
Seattle	27	29	.482	5 1/2
Oakland	24	30	.444	7 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	32	22	.593	—
New York	29	25	.537	3
Atlanta	26	28	.481	6
Florida	27	30	.474	6 1/2
Washington	15	39	.278	17

Central Division

Milwaukee	33	23	.589	—
St. Louis	31	25	.554	2
Cincinnati	29	26	.527	3 1/2
Chicago	27	26	.509	4 1/2
Pittsburgh	26	29	.473	6 1/2
Houston	24	30	.444	8

West Division

Los Angeles	39	19	.672	—
San Francisco	28	26	.519	9
San Diego	26	29	.473	11 1/2
Arizona	24	32	.429	14
Colorado	23	32	.418	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Tampa Bay 9, N.Y. Yankees 7
Kansas City 6, Toronto 2
Chicago White Sox 4, Cleveland 2
Seattle 2, Minnesota 1
Detroit 2, L.A. Angels 1
Boston 8, Texas 1
Oakland 9, Baltimore 4
L.A. Dodgers 3, Philadelphia 2, 12 innings
Florida 5, San Francisco 4
Washington 7, N.Y. Mets 1
Pittsburgh 6, Houston 4
Cincinnati 4, Chicago Cubs 3, 11 innings
Milwaukee 3, Atlanta 0
Colorado 10, St. Louis 1
San Diego 6, Arizona 4

MEMORIAL LEADERBOARD

THIRD ROUND

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Scores Saturday after the third round of the $6 million Memorial tournament at the par 72, 7,366-yard Muirfield Village Golf Club course:

Matt Bettencourt	71-68-68—207
Mark Wilson	68-70-69—207
Jonathan Byrd	69-68-71—208
Jim Furyk	67-70-71—208
Geoff Ogilvy	72-74-63—209
Davis Love III	72-68-69—209
Tiger Woods	69-74-68—211
Michael Letzig	72-70-69—211
Matt Kuchar	73-67-71—211
Ernie Els	70-70-71—211
Bubba Watson	71-71-70—212
Luke Donald	64-76-72—212
Stewart Cink	68-72-72—212
Hunter Mahan	74-69-70—213
Troy Matteson	69-73-71—213
Dustin Johnson	73-68-72—213
Chris DiMarco	73-67-73—213
Steve Marino	68-72-73—213
Ryuji Imada	70-69-74—213
Mike Weir	69-69-75—213
Ben Curtis	71-71-72—214
Alex Cejka	73-68-73—214
Daniel Chopra	72-69-73—214
Rod Pampling	69-71-74—214
K.J. Choi	73-70-72—215
Jason Day	67-73-75—215
Robert Allenby	72-76-68—216
Jose Maria Olazabal	74-74-68—216
D.J. Trahan	73-74-69—216
Mathew Goggin	73-73-70—216
Jeff Overton	76-69-71—216
Lucas Glover	75-69-72—216
Reinier Saxton	69-75-72—216
Will MacKenzie	70-73-73—216
Kevin Na	71-72-73—216
Chez Reavie	71-74-72—217
Steve Stricker	70-74-73—217
Kevin Sutherland	69-75-73—217
Webb Simpson	73-71-73—217
Charl Schwartzel	72-68-77—217
Marc Leishman	74-74-70—218
Steve Lowery	76-71-71—218
Camilo Villegas	71-74-73—218
Tom Pernice, Jr.	71-74-73—218
Woody Austin	75-70-73—218
Nick Watney	73-71-74—218
Paul Casey	73-70-75—218
Martin Kaymer	71-76-72—219
Richard Sterne	74-71-74—219
John Senden	71-74-74—219
Y.E. Yang	73-72-74—219
David Duval	71-74-74—219
Tom Lehman	71-74-74—219
Jerry Kelly	72-72-75—219
Zach Johnson	71-73-75—219
Johnson Wagner	69-74-76—219
Charley Hoffman	71-72-76—219
Ian Poulter	75-71-74—220
George McNeill	76-69-75—220
D.A. Points	75-70-75—220
Lee Janzen	72-73-75—220
Kenny Perry	72-73-75—220
Erik Compton	72-75-74—221
Jeff Quinney	75-72-74—221
Ted Purdy	67-79-75—221
Steve Flesch	73-75-74—222
Stuart Appleby	72-74-76—222
Nick O'Hern	73-73-76—222
Nicholas Thompson	69-75-78—222
Bill Haas	74-72-77—223
Marc Turnesa	72-73-78—223
Tim Herron	75-73-76—224
Mark Brooks	75-73-76—224
Rocco Mediate	73-70-81—224
Brett Quigley	74-73-78—225
Jeff Klauk	76-71-79—226
Scott McCarron	74-74-82—230

By The Associated Press

The Week in Sports

Youth football festival reigns

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The biggest gathering of youth athletes happened last week with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association staging the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League.

The festival that took place at the Hopwood Junior High School and Commonwealth Ports Authority fields drew a record of more than 500 athletes in the five age groups.

Players in the U6, U8, and U10 age group enjoyed a mixed of fun and competitive football in the morning, while U13 teams slugged it out for coveted trophies in the afternoon. In the end, MP United 1 and Matansa ruled the boys and girls divisions, respectively after nailing similar 3-0 wins over MP United 3 and Independents Football Club.

Last Saturday, MP United walked away with the boys' 18-and-under title after pulling off a come-from-behind win over IFC, 2-1, while Paire topped the girls' U18 division.

Other notable events last week were the final week of competition in the 2009 DFS Micronesian Tennis Championships, CNMI swimmers' record-breaking campaign in the 2009 Guam Championships, a public hearing at the House of Representatives for a bill that will regulate mixed martial arts in the Commonwealth, and the recognition of the NMASA Athletes of the Month (for May).

The DFS netfest featured a rematch in the men's open singles between CNMI junior netter Ji Hoon Heo and former Drake University standout Kirk Schuler. Heo, who topped Schuler in the 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships, made it 2-0 after a 6-2, 7-5 win in the DFS finals.

Joining Heo in the adults singles winners' circle were Thea Minor, Christian Miller, Hector Benitez, Fernando Cajigan, Sakiko Eda, and Cleofe Santos.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and Saipan Swim Club went to Agatna to compete in the two-day Guam championships and returned to Saipan with 14 new entries to the CNMI swimming record books.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers owned 13 of those marks with Kai Staal listing six, Rezne with three, Kaito Yanai with two and Ryosei Toda, and Shin Kimura with one apiece.

On top of 13 records, Tsunami Saipan also collected 67 medals, 25 gold, 21 silver, and 21 bronze, from the meet.

Kento Akimaru delivered the lone record-breaking performance for SSC, shattering the 50m butterfly mark in the 8-and-under age group. Akimaru's 43.06 time in Guam crushed the 30-year record (43.74 seconds) of Jonathan Sakovich set on April 5, 1979.

The 8-year-old swimmer gave SSC three gold medals, one silver, and one bronze bringing SSC's total to 15. Bryce Daly had one gold, Grace Kimball claimed two silver and five bronze, and Andrew Kimbal netted one silver and one bronze.

With MMA joining the list of growing sports in the CNMI, the House of Representatives held a public hearing on House Local Bill No. 16-26, which would regulate MMA in the Commonwealth.

More than 30 members of the MMA community attended the hearing and pointed out more cons than pros of the bill. MMA fighters and promoters said the bill if made into a law will kill the sport, while lawmakers reiterated that through H.L.B. 16-26, fighters' welfare and safety will be ensured.

Before the week ended, Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association named four athletes as top performers for May.

Getting the Male and Female Athletes of the Month citations were Heo and sprinter Yvonne Bennett, while Hopwood's Brandon Phillip and Rachel Abrams took the Student Male and Female Athletes of the Month plums.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ji Hoon Heo, who teamed up with Jeff Race, reacts after scoring a point against Kirk Schuler and Peter Loyola during their men's open doubles finals.

DAN KIMBALL
Kento Akimaru is among the CNMI swimmers who made a record-breaking performance in Guam last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers show the trophies and medals they won in last weekend's 2009 Guam Championships at the Agatna Swimming Pool.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, MMA fighters Jason Tarkong and Kelvin Fitial, and Trench Tech's Jeff Taylor testify during a public hearing at the House of Representatives on a bill that will regulate mixed martial arts in the CNMI.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Youth players participate in the opening ceremony for the U18 division of 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League last Saturday's at the CPA Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Paire and Matansa players exchange high fives after their game in the boys' U13 division during the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League held on May 30 at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United's Dae Min Jeon tries to keep the ball in the field during their title game against IFC in the boys' U18 division of the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League last Saturday at the CPA Field.

It's a bird who wins Belmont—Summer Bird!

This was a Belmont for the Birds. It was Summer Bird, not Mine That Bird and jockey Calvin Borel, who came roaring down the long stretch and won the final jewel of the Triple Crown on Saturday. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Youth football festival reigns

The biggest gathering of youth athletes happened last week with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association staging the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League. 27

Saipan All-Stars sweep CNMI District Tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's Major, Junior, and Senior All-Stars secured tickets to the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament after dominating the 2009 CNMI District Tournament played over the weekend.

The island's Junior, Major, and Senior All-Stars earned the right to represent the CNMI in the regional meet later this month as early as Saturday after sweeping Rota and Tinian, respectively, while the Major All-Stars followed suit yesterday after clobbering Rota in the finals.

JUNIORS
Saipan 15, Rota 0; Saipan 18, Rota 0

The Thelma Mizer-managed Junior All-Stars shut out Rota in Games 1, 15-0, and 2, 18-0.

The hosts took Game 1 after only five innings with Brian Camacho pitching in no relief and striking out nine batters. The best that Rota could do in Game 1 was have second baseman Jose Lizama on second base in the third inning.

In Game 2, the match was in the bag for the hosts as early as in the first inning with the Saipan Junior All-Stars scoring 11 runs at the bottom of the first.

Rota had a chance to score in the tournament when it had runners on corners at the top of the fourth and leftfielder Austin Masga at bat. With a full count, third pitcher Lamarc Iguel eyed the catcher's glove and struck Masga out, ending the inning and Rota's chance to make it to the scoreboard.

SENIORS
Saipan 19, Tinian 2; Saipan 12, Tinian 3

In the Senior League, Saipan also had a easy time against Tinian, winning Game 1 last Friday, 19-2, and wrapping up the series with a 12-3 triumph in Game 2 last Saturday.

In Game 1, Eli Augenbaugh pitched in 3.4 innings, struck out five, allowed only a hit, and gave up only one run before Harry Nakamura replaced him midway in the fourth inning.

In Game 2, Tinian added one more run to its output in Game 1, but it was not enough to force a deciding Game 3.

After being sluggish on offense in the first three innings of Game 2, the

See SAIPAN on Page 26

Saipan Junior All-Stars starting pitcher Jared catches a throw from Henry Rabauliman in Game 2 of their showdown against Rota Junior All-Stars in the 2009 District Tournament last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kuznetsova beats Safina to win French Open title

Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova holds the cup after defeating compatriot Dinara Safina after their women's singles final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Saturday June 6, 2009.

AP

PARIS (AP)—Svetlana Kuznetsova never struck Dinara Safina as a Grand Slam champion in the making when they were kids in Russia. Kuznetsova showed up for matches toting a 2-liter bottle of soda and wearing rock band T-shirts.

As of Saturday, Kuznetsova owns two major titles—and that's two more than Safina.

Far steadier, if not all that spectacular, Kuznetsova took advantage of the No. 1-ranked Safina's assorted errors and won the French Open final 6-4, 6-2. Hardly a work of beauty, the 74-minute match ended, fittingly, with Safina's seventh double-fault.

"She was too tight. She had so much pressure on her," said Kuznetsova, who also won the 2004 U.S. Open. "I just played the match. It was just one more match. ... Definitely it was a lot of emotions inside of me, but I control it."

Not at the outset: She lost the first three points and was broken in the first game. Quickly, though, the seventh-seeded Kuznetsova took control, yanking Safina from side to side with the same powerful groundstrokes that eliminated Serena Williams in the

See KUZNETSOVA on Page 26

Knecht lifts MP United past IFC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI Men's National Team member Lucas Knecht drilled a golden goal to lead MP United to a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Independents Football Club in the boys' U18 finals of the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football Festival last Saturday at the CPA Field.

Knecht nailed the winning goal in the under two minute mark of the 10-minute overtime period, capitalizing on IFC's major defensive blunder. After both teams struggled for possessions in the first minute of the extension, Knecht finally had the ball in control and headed to the right sideline. Several IFC defenders were chasing Knecht, but goalie Nathan Flores decided to help out on defense, leaving their goal open.

Knecht saw the defensive lapse and from the sideline, dribbled to his left side and canned the golden goal to hand MP United the U18 championship trophy.

"Winning the championship after being down in the first half has yet to sink in. I did not know I was going to score, all I thought at that moment was to get away from my defenders and get near the goal. Then I saw their goalie leaving his post, so I switched my dribble and let the ball go," said Knecht, who was almost credited for the goal that tied the game at 1-all.

Knecht in the second half hit the ball on the same side, but a few meters away from where he made his golden goal. Flores at first seemed headed for a save, but at the last minute tapped

See KNECHT on Page 26

MP United Lucas Knecht in action against IFC during their title game in the boys' U18 division of the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football Festival last Saturday at the CPA Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Olympic star Timms to coach Opals at Oceania Tournament

Basketball Australia has announced that Michelle Timms, who starred for the Opals in the Olympics and World Championships, and for the Phoenix Mercury of the WNBA, will be the assistant coach for the Australian women's team at the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament.

Timms has played 241 senior games with the Opals, Australia's national women's basketball team. She made an immediate impact as a rookie in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, helping the Opals to a fourth-place finish. She was part of the bronze medal team at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, and as team captain led the team to a silver medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. She starred for the Opals at the World Championships in 1986, 1990, 1994, and 1998, winning the bronze medal in 1998. These were the first medals ever won by the Australian women's team.

Timms

She was the first Australian woman to play professionally overseas, playing for teams in Germany and Italy, and being selected twice to the league all-star team. At

See OLYMPIC on Page 26